

Hafa Adai!

Court order sought to compel
NMC to pay 30 pct. rate. » PAGE 6

PCF names the Marianas Chapter's
Class of 2015. » PAGE 9

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 56

FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2015

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

CHCC is found in contempt

» **CUC allowed to stop providing utility services to CHCC's 'non-essential' services**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was found in contempt yesterday for not complying with a court order to pay its monthly bills with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., now reaching a total of \$14.7 million.

As sanction, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed CUC to cut utility services to CHCC's "non-essential" services unless the health corporation pays up or pays in

See CHCC on Page 4

Wiseman



GIAA halts inspection of Freedom Air plane

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam airport officials abruptly halted late last month the inspection of a Freedom Air Cessna 206 plane being eyed by Skydive Marianas for business in the CNMI—raising suspicion from parties involved of a "hidden agenda."

» **'Ridiculous' demands made; plans for remaining assets unclear**

Freedom Air listed \$750,000 it owed the Guam International Airport Authority when it filed a bankruptcy petition in 2013, which was dismissed by a Guam court last year.

Parties in the botched inspection believe the Guam airport is looking to recover its losses—like when a car is abandoned with past dues in

an auto shop, the mechanic collects what he can.

Depending on its condition, a Cessna 206 is estimated to sell around \$110,000 to \$160,000, it was learned.

When asked to comment on GIAA's plans for Freedom Air's assets, spokesperson Rolenda Faausamile said the only information she is able to share is: "Guam is following all necessary procedures in disposing of

See GIAA on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Vanuatu's cyclone-ravaged outer islands are getting desperate for food and water.

» PAGE 16



OFF THE WALL

Sick pets might soon be able to use marijuana in Nevada.

» PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE

The fifth season of "Game of Thrones" has its premiere at the Tower of London.

» PAGE 23



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE
QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED
ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Red Cross Walkathon set tomorrow

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thousands are expected to join the 29th Annual Red Cross Walkathon tomorrow beginning at 6am at the 4H Building in Susupe.

This year, shirt colors have changed to green to support the military and participants can join three different walks; 10K, 5K, and 2K. This year's theme is "Walk for the Red."

There will be additional activities and prizes for participants to enjoy this year. Activities include balloons, a bounce house, face painting, a petting zoo, and many more. There will also be free blood pressure and blood sugar testing as well as immunizations.

Prizes include water park passes, gift certificates from McDonald's, BLU Tank 4.5 smartphone, Kindle Fire HDX, Athlete's Foot/All Star sports equipment, 25,000 United Miles, eye exams, and many more.

Participants who raise at least \$75 will be able to receive a Pacific Islands Club Waterpark pass, \$5 gift card from Subway, Regal/Hollywood Theater tickets, and a McDonald's gift certificate.

Those who raise \$20 will receive a T-shirt, giveaways, and free refreshments provided by Coke, Subway, and Foremost.

The Red Cross will also include 20 health fair participants. These participants are: Public School System, Northern Marianas College-CREES-Aquaculture, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Ayuda Network, Let's Move Marianas, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Family Violence Task Force, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, NMPASI, CAMI, PSS Head Start, Council on Developmental Disabilities, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Hardt Eye Clinic, Get Fit CNMI, NMC Nursing students, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.-H.O.M.E/ Immunization, MINA, NMC-CDI's Health area, ARC Health and Safety, Coke, Subway, Foremost, and Marpac.

Wondering if your tax rebate or refund will be paid on time this year? Need cash now? Stop worrying and stop here.

Express Financial can lend you up to 70% of your verified tax rebate NOW.

NO CREDIT HISTORY NECESSARY.

As long as you have the verifiable source of income with the ability to make the payments, Express Financial will lend against your tax returns.

Perhaps it's not a tax refund loan you are looking for; Express Financial has plenty of cash and make loans for all your financial needs with the fastest services on island. Express Financial can get you the cash you want for your summer fix-up projects or taking that long awaited family vacation. Come in to see us TODAY or give us a call and we can take your application right over the phone. Our job is to help you succeed financially. Express Financial is located at the corner of Middle Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road. PH-670-235-6032.

Express Financial loans are as easy as 1-2-3
Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply!

- #1** Call us direct at 670-235-6032 and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.
- #2** Fill out the attached application and fax to 670-235-6040 and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.
- #3** Fill out the attached application, scan and email to cccar6985users@carfinancial.com and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.

EXPRESS FINANCIAL is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.
Helping you succeed financially is our top priority.

In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.

QUICK CASH APPLICATION

Primary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____

Secondary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____

Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

EXPRESS

EXPRESS
FINANCIAL

Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road,
San Jose Village
Phone: (670) 235-6032
Fax: (670) 235-6040



MVA mulls having Saipan host its own 'beach party'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite tabling the discussion on a beach party initiative, Marianas Visitors Authority board members have agreed that having a "beach party" similar to those held in other destinations like Mexico during spring break or festival days is good for the CNMI.

At the recommendation of one of its ad-hoc committees, it said that having a beach party with food, entertainment, and alcohol might provide a better experience for visitors and the public as well.

MVA said the CNMI can be a possible destination not only for vacationers but college students as well if they can mimic other destinations like Cabo and Cancun in Mexico, where droves of university students and people looking for a great experience converge.

MVA board chair Marian Cleanups continue after storm

Lawmakers continue to conduct cleanup activities in and around their respective precincts, days after Tropical Storm Bavi whipped the CNMI over the weekend.

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) and their supporters are taking a hands-on approach in the continuing cleanup drives.

Propst said his community workers are working with Benavente's community workers to collect scattered garbage.

Works on road clearing and removal of fallen trees continue, according to Propst.

The lawmaker, however, said for the clearing of fallen trees, government agencies such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Department of Pub-

Aldan-Pierce said she likes the idea of a beach party, but said that MVA should come up with a better and more detailed proposal before any funding could go to the project.

MVA board member Jerry Tan said it is a great idea as a beach scenery at night is a "luxury" for many of the CNMI's tourists. He said the CNMI's top three source markets all live in cities where the sky could barely be viewed, with all the tall buildings and bright lights.

"I think this is a great idea, because this is something they don't experience and for them to do something on the beach like that is a great experience for them. I liked the idea, but I don't know the basis of \$40,000 that is being proposed," Tan said.

The ad-hoc committee came up with the cost of \$40,000 to

See MVA on Page 4



Anniversary Special

March 20 – 21, 2015

EXTRA VALUE MEALS



BUY ANY of the Extra Value Meal

from our regular menu (EVM 1-11) and

GET the same sandwich for only

\$3.00



BREAKFAST

Portuguese
Sausage
Eggs & Rice
Platter

Buy One,
Get One
half the price

DESSERT

Celebrate the
sweet life.



Bacon, Egg and Cheese McGriddles

Soft, warm griddle cakes with the sweet taste of maple baked right in, thick cut Applewood smoked bacon, a fluffy folded egg and melty American cheese. Or, put a different spin on breakfast and try it with 100%, freshly grilled egg whites and smooth white cheddar*. Genius, indeed.

*pasteurized process

BUY ONE Bacon, Egg & Cheese McGriddles Extra Value Meal and GET ONE Bacon, Egg & Cheese McGriddles sandwich for only **\$1.00**

Available at Middle Road Store only.



Egg Nog Shake

Buy One,
Get One
FREE

Any size. While supplies last.

STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30AM to 10:00PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7) • Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577
Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

TAX ASSISTANCE SERVICES STARTS NOW AT LP ACCOUNTING

Rm. 304, 3rd Floor Marianas Business Plaza
(formerly Nauro Building)
Business Hours: 8:30am - 6:00pm (Mon.-Fri.)
9:00am - 4:00pm (Saturday)

Tel: 234-3800, 285-3900
Contact Loida or one of our friendly staff

Golf resort operator urged to follow lease conditions

By JOEL D.PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort should comply with a provision in the company's leasing deal with government that mandates the investor to improve nearby beach and coastal areas.

The golf resort operator is one of the earliest resort op-

erators in the CNMI to avail of a long-term lease with the government. It signed the lease agreement back in 1986 and was able to secure a lease extension in 2011.

However, the resort operator still needs to comply with some of the provisions of the lease, particularly on improving beach areas near it, accord-

ing to Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Guerrero, who chairs the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said he wrote a letter to COP management to "remind" them of the lease conditions.

"The lease was made in 1986, but there are still no improvements on the beach

side," Guerrero said.

While he acknowledged that surrounding areas in the golf resort are clean and well kept, there are no beach facilities and other infrastructures.

"The lease agreement says the investor should beautify the beach and coastal areas. There should be picnic tables, pavilions, barbecue areas,

tables and seating, parking space, and improvement of access roads," Guerrero said.

The lawmaker said the specific area that Coral Ocean Point needs to improve is Unai Dangkulu.

"These beach recreational areas will be established at the expense of the investor," Guerrero said, adding that the golf resort also needs to coordinate with the Department of Pub-

lic Works, and Department of Land and Natural Resources, if it needs to.

Guerrero stressed that he is not asking for "state-of-the-art" facilities, but the golf resort should follow the conditions, since it is leasing public lands.

He also said he is "not trying to chase investors away, but they [investors] should honor the agreement."

whether or not they will fund it.

Another recommendation is to have it reflect the traditions and customs of Asia. This includes one of its most celebrated festivals, the Lunar New Year.

Pierce told board members to table the discussions and have HANMI and the committee members meet and provide an input and design for the beach party.

thing about your inspection, actually, we will not let you in at all," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that it was GIAA airport manager Jean Arriola who had called CDA's Oscar Camacho to call off the inspection.

Parties involved claimed GIAA's reasons included possible "sabotage of the airplane," despite the presence of a third party observer.

When sought for comment, Camacho said he could not comment on this story or Freedom Air assets in general.

Tchernychenko said he doesn't know what was going on between CDA and GIAA over the assets. "It's an unclear picture," he said.

Tchernychenko said he learned from CDA that GIAA specified a list of demands to access the Freedom Air plane in it hangar.

"You have to have signed commercial operator license at Guam airport, you have to pledge to run security for all your representatives, you have to obtain insurance, \$10 million coverage aircraft liability—this is just to walk in and touch the plane," he said.

"And it was just ridiculous. They said, 'If you will not follow our demands, we will not let you in.'

"Nothing is clear," he added.

"Who should have insurance [for inspection]? Because CDA isn't the operator, CDA is the lien holder[...]CDA is the creditor and now they have to assess Freedom Air assets. We have such feelings that it's not legalities but underwater currents, which we do not see but we feel," he said. "I believe many, many [...] hidden agendas involved."

Skydive Marianas has been attempting to start in the CNMI since 2013. They lack a plane. Tchernychenko described their many efforts as "fly in the goo" so far, alluding to problems with the local airport authority here as well.

PROBABLE

From Page 1

OAG file three charges of misconduct in public office—one referring to alleged buying of sham "ice," possession of marijuana, and, if Bulaon possessed marijuana, Tudela has an affirmative duty to arrest or report the matter.

Attorney Charles Reyes, court-appointed counsel for Tudela, argued that the charge of misconduct in public office does not fit with the plain language of the statute.

Reyes said there is no evidence that Tudela was acting in the color of office as he was off-duty when the alleged operation occurred. He said the

misconduct charge should be thrown out.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas said because police officers are given the public's trust, they are public officials in the Commonwealth. Rapadas said police officers are sworn to uphold the law.

Reyes said he feels there is strong argument and important issues to what constitutes color of law.

Camacho said he has concerns with the public official issue and the matter needs further research.

Reyes is expected to raise that issue in a subsequent motion.

At the hearing, Rapadas called to the witness stand Attorney General's Office investigator George F. David, who

told the court the circumstances that led to their operation against Tudela.

David said that one marijuana plant was found inside Tudela's apartment unit and another in the balcony area.

David also disclosed that they used *tawas* and not "ice" in the operation against Tudela. *Tawas* is the Tagalog term for alum, a crystalline substance used to control body odor or deodorant that also has cosmetic, medicinal, and health benefits.

Reyes is the new counsel for Tudela after the Office of the Public Defender withdrew as his counsel for conflict of interest.

Tudela, 38, has been in prison after he failed to post a \$100,000 cash bail.

Reyes said the bail is grossly

excessive as the \$100,000 cash is for murder while the charges against Tudela are misdemeanors, having a punishment of less than a year.

Reyes said he will be filing a bail modification motion.

Tudela was arrested last March 6.

David stated in his report that the Office of the Attorney General's Investigation Division, Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force, and the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Bureau of Investigation jointly investigated Tudela's drug activities.

David said information gathered by AGID indicates that Tudela's activities involve smoking and purchasing "ice" while on or off duty.

CUC over payments to its medical supply vendors or to its employees would have jeopardized hospital operations.

CHCC also asserted that its choice not to pay its CUC bills was based on a belief that CUC, a public entity, would be more understanding about the hospital's need to pay outstanding debts owed private vendors.

Wiseman said the court is not persuaded by CHCC's arguments.

"The court is not aware of any case law that provides for the legal principle that the hospital advances; that a party with a court directive to pay a reasonable and necessary business expense has the discretion to prioritize said expenses as if there was no court order," Wiseman said.

The law, the judge said, does not allow for CHCC to create its own inability to comply with the court orders.

At the Feb. 24 hearing, Wiseman noted that CHCC was "technically bankrupt." In response, CHCC stated that it was "insolvent."

Wiseman said CUC lost its independent status as a public corporation in 2006 and was re-incorporated into the Department of Public Works under an executive order.

Wiseman said while CUC was a part of DPW, the Legislature wrote off \$45.5 million of the principal amount of CUC's loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority.

"It is not difficult to see some irony behind the events leading up to [this] matter," the judge said.

CHCC was initially established as the Department of

CHCC

From Page 1

an amount that satisfies CUC.

The judge, however, deferred the execution of the sanctions by 45 days to give CHCC time to file within 10 days from yesterday any objections to the list of "non-essential" hospital services.

Wiseman vacated his orders dated June 2, 2014, and Jan. 20, 2015, that required CHCC to pay CUC its billings. He further ordered CHCC continue to pay its monthly utility bills to CUC.

Wiseman stated that there is no question that CHCC is in a dire financial situation but the court cannot permit anyone who is under a court order to unilaterally disobey that order without facing some consequences.

"Here, the hospital [CHCC] was even aware of what the consequences could entail," he said.

Among the CHCC services that Wiseman declared "non-essential" were a Commonwealth Health Center well; the Department of Public Health Center at a commercial building in Tanapag; DPH-Public Health and DPH-Community Guidance Center at Bencam commercial building in Garapan; DPH Drugs & Substance Abuse at an As Perdido commercial building; the DPH-Substance Abuse Center; and DPH-Rota Health Center's café.

Documents filed in court showed that the Rota Health Center café's utility billings for October, November, and December 2014 totaled \$70,191.39 (October: \$26,398.41; November, \$23,248.26; and December,

\$20,544.72)

Wiseman found this utility expense for a café on Rota to be exorbitant, saying he is not inclined to find the café an essential CHCC service.

Wiseman relied on the list of non-essential accounts provided by CHCC on March 6, 2015.

CUC's earlier asked the court to hold CHCC in contempt for allegedly ignoring a \$1.3-million bill for utility services for three months in 2014. CUC, through counsel James Sirok, alleged that the non-payment caused CHCC's total overdue balance to balloon to \$14.7 million.

CUC also showed that the hospital did not pay any utility services bills for January 2015.

In its response, the hospital, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, argued that its non-payments were not willful.

Lochabay asserted that CHCC's net income, after deducting "critical" expenses, was insufficient to pay CUC any of the monthly bills in question.

In his order yesterday, Wiseman pointed out that CHCC had testified that its combined revenue for October, November, and December 2014 was \$6.8 million. In that same period, the hospital paid \$5.4 million in personnel costs and had \$1.5 million to spend on vendors, including to non-medical and medical supplies vendors.

During those three months, CUC, a non-medical vendor, billed CHCC \$1.3 million for utility services provided to the hospital facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

CHCC argued that it could not have paid CUC's monthly bills because choosing to pay

Public Health and Environmental Services in 1978. In 2009, DPH was re-organized into CHCC, a public corporation, under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Act of 2008.

As one of the goals of the re-organization, the Legislature cited a desire for the hospital to be an "independent public healthcare institution that is as financially self-sufficient and independent of the Commonwealth government as is possible."

"That wish appears to not have been realized. The hospital is in dire need for more money," Wiseman said.

Although CUC and CHCC were reorganized several times and now exist as quasi-independent institutions, they are far from being private enterprises, Wiseman said, and are therefore very much public institutions charged with the paramount responsibility of providing essential life necessities to the people of the CNMI.

Such responsibilities, Wiseman said, cannot realistically be satisfied without adequate funding from the government.

Wiseman said the government should consider prioritizing funding when necessary to support the hospital and CUC to assure that they can and do provide the life essential entitlements to its people.

"Perhaps it is time for the Commonwealth government, in general, and specifically, for the Commonwealth Legislature to seriously reconsider the current status of these 'independent' agencies—and provide adequate support for their understandably colossal needs," Wiseman added.

MVA

From Page 3

fund the beach party initiative.

Tan said it would be best if the committee works with the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands and come up with a design. If it is successful, then the board can decide

GIAA

From Page 1

assets left in the hangar by Freedom Air."

With Freedom Air's approval, a Commonwealth Development Authority representative accompanied Skydive Marianas and a certified mechanic to the inspection on Feb. 26.

CDA is the lien holder of Freedom Air assets, parties involved said.

Asia Pacific, a third party on behalf of Freedom Air whose representatives could not step into Guam's hangar because of their eviction, oversaw the inspection.

Parties involved said they arrived at the Guam hangar around 10:30am that morning after a 45-minute stay in Guam Customs.

Parties involved said they were questioned by the airport about the length of their pre-purchase inspection, expecting the inspection to be under an hour.

The parties had planned for a two- to three-hour inspection, it was gathered.

The inspection found that there was no battery in the plane, prompting the parties to leave the hangar around lunchtime to locate a battery and drain fuel for the testing of the plane's engine.

When they returned around 2pm, airport marshals would not let them enter.

"Marshals just did not let us in," Skydive Marianas general manager Oleg Tchernychenko said in an interview this week.

Tchernychenko said the GIAA representative during inspection did not know "squat about aircraft, about anything—and we had to ask everything."

They discovered they needed a battery to start up avionics and fuel to start up engine, he said.

"We made some calls, and we went out to borrow what we needed. ... And when we came [back], Guam airport said, 'We didn't know any-

Govt issues apology for Aetna 'error'

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Governor has apologized following the release of a memo detailing insurance rates that workers need to pay should they get an insurance policy from Aetna Global.

The administration recently opted to renew an insurance deal with Aetna Global, but received a lot of flak after the Department of Finance released a memo on the premium rates that were seen to be "too high."

It turned out the premium rates were a result of a typographical error and a new memo from the DOF was immediately issued for the correct rates.

"We apologize for the inconvenience resulting from the error on our initial memo that was released last Friday," press secretary Ivan Blanco said in a statement.

Blanco said "as for the affordability of the new rates, although there's a reduction for the low options, we understand that the rates are still be too high for most, but Aetna currently provides access and availability for our active employees and retirees residing here and abroad

as well as providing enhanced benefits beyond what is currently available in our local health insurance market."

The official said the government assures it "will diligently review the health insurance provider again before the end of this year through the competitive request for proposal process."

"I extend my appreciation to [Representative] Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) for alerting us on the error on the high rates," Blanco said.

For Rep. Angel Demapan, (R-Saipan), the government should go ahead with a plan to issue an RFP three months ahead of the contract expiration of its existing plan.

Demapan said this could

mean that by September this year, "the 2016 RFP will be issued to give providers ample time to participate in the process."

"I'm glad that the government swiftly issued the corrected information regarding the rates. I would've preferred to see the issuance of an RFP a

few months ago to allow other insurance providers to submit competitive proposals for consideration," Demapan said.

The lawmaker said it is a good thing that "the government successfully negotiated a much lower percentage increase than what was originally anticipated."

Man, woman are arrested for impersonation, false statement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal agents have arrested a man who allegedly impersonated another person in applying for nonimmigrant documents and a woman who lied to Homeland Security Investigations officers.

Virgilio Ramirez Patubo was served with an arrest warrant yesterday after an indictment was filed charging him with three counts of false impersonation in immigration matters.

Joann A.P. Villagomez was served with an arrest warrant on Wednesday after an indictment was filed charging her with one count of false statement.

Patubo and Villagomez were both taken to U.S. District Court for the NMI for their initial appearance yesterday afternoon.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorling requested that Patubo be kept detained pending trial as he is considered a flight risk.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Man-

glona set a detention hearing for Patubo on Thursday.

Attorney Janet H. King appeared as court-appointed counsel for Patubo.

Manglona released Villagomez on her own recognizance.

Attorney Vicente Salas is court-appointed counsel for Villagomez.

Villagomez's trial will be on May 26.

According to the indictment, Patubo impersonated a Joseph Mendiola Roque when applying for a CW-2 visa on Nov. 18, 2011. Patubo also allegedly passed himself off as Roque when applying for a humanitarian parole application on May 19, 2012, and on Feb. 2, 2013.

According to a separate indictment, Villagomez represented that she was living with Baozhong Wang in the Coco Building apartment in As Terlaje and that she had lived in that apartment with Wang from November 2011 to March 2012. Both claims are allegedly false.

**Meatless Pizza
at
Amigo's
this Lenten Season**

Double Cheese | Vegetarian
Spicy Shrimp | Seafood

Quality Food. Great Price.

OPEN DAILY: Lunch 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Tel. No. 233-7412

I ❤ MASSAGE
Special Promotion
\$15.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
\$20.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours: 1:00PM – 8:00PM
Monday – Sunday
For more information, please
Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, Joeten
Commercial Building or across World Resort

Ed Ventures TAX PRO
P.O. Box 503630 CK Saipan MP 96950 • Email: ed.taxpro@yahoo.com
Tel.: (670) 235-0506 • Cell: 789-0506
... providing professional service and
get the refund you deserve.

Services:
• Individual Income Tax Preparation (Local, Federal & State Tax)
• Business Income Tax Prep. (BGRT, EWT, Corporate Tax)
• Accounting/Bookkeeping

Hours:
8am - 6pm Monday through Friday
1pm - 5pm Every Saturday
(Please drop by or contact,
Edgar Genobaten for appointment)

To Garapan Middle Road Chalan Laulau
Quarter Master Road Wimsook TAX PRO Saipan Auto Glass & Paint Pro SPG

MARCH MADNESS
CELLULAR SPECIALS!

\$29* SAMSUNG GALAXY S3 NEO POSTPAID

\$399* SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 4 POSTPAID

\$79 POSH REVEL PREPAID

\$99 POSH ORION PREPAID

\$129 BLU STUDIO C MINI PREPAID

Enjoy **unlimited** Talk & Text with every Prepaid Data Plan:

Data	Rate
50MB	\$1.00/day
100MB	\$1.50/day
200MB	\$2.00/day
1GB	\$2.50/day

PREPAID PHONES INCLUDE 4G PREPAID SIM WITH \$10 LOAD

*Some conditions apply. Must sign 2 years agreement on \$80 4G Rate Plan. While supplies last.

CALL
Saipan 682-4ITE (4483)
Tinian 433-0210
Rota 532-3599

VISIT
Chalan Laulau
Wireless Express Center - TSL Building

IT&E



American Red Cross
Northern Mariana Islands

Saipan Rota Tinian



Start Time: 6:00am Location: 4-H building-Susupe
Saturday March 21, 2015
Lots of fun for the whole family
10K, 5k, and 2k courses
A \$20.00 donation receives a t-shirt and give-a-ways
Free Sandwich and refreshments for walkers
DPH Health Fair x Blood Pressure Checks
Immunizations x Cooking Demonstration
Carnival Games x Face Painting x Happy The Clown
Petting Zoo x Fire Big Truck & Military Vehicle show

Please support the American Red Cross
For more information please call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459
Premier Sponsors



The top adult walker with the largest donations
collected* will win a **Grand Prize** of



25,000 United Airlines MileagePlus Miles

Additional Prize Packages for the

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners

Saturday, March 21, 2015

Start Time: 6:00am

Location: 4-H Building-Susupe

For more information contact the NMI Chapter at 234-3459

Thank you for your support!

*donations collected must be at least \$100

All Walkers who raise \$75.00 on their pledge form



Will receive a **Free PIC Waterpark Pass**
and **\$5.00 gift cards from Regal Theaters,**
Subway and McDonald's



American Red Cross

29th Annual Walkathon

For more information on this promotion, please contact your school
Walkathon coordinator or the Red Cross Chapter office at 234-3459



Top 4 Student Walkers with the LARGEST Donations
collected will WIN their FREE Choice of:



**\$200
Value**

BLU Tank 4.5

The BLU Tank 4.5
is an IPS
display and water
resistant
certified smartphone,
operating with
Android 4.3.

Court order sought to compel NMC to pay \$75K, 30 pct. employer rate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund trustee asked the federal court yesterday to order the Northern Marianas College to comply with the terms of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action by paying its employer contribution, now totaling \$75,080.79.

The Settlement Fund trustee, through counsel Dean Manglona, also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to require NMC to pay all future employer contributions at a rate of 30 percent.

Manglona asserted that other CNMI agencies choose to cooperate and work with the Settlement Fund to find the funds to make the full 30 percent contribution from their budget.

"NMC has no excuse for not making the full 30 percent employer contribution for its employees," the lawyer said.

To allow NMC to pay a lower rate would not only lead to an absurd result, Manglona said, but would also be completely unfair to the agencies that comply and the retirees who are forced to subsidize NMC.

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang said the settlement agreement in Johnson's case

requires the NMI government and autonomous agencies to pay employer contributions to the Settlement Fund after each pay period at a rate of 30 percent of total payroll, pursuant to Tang Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo's order on Aug. 11, 2011.

As of pay period ending Feb. 21, 2015, the CNMI government and all other governmental entities, except for NMC, has been paying their employer contributions based on the reduced 30 percent rate, Tang said.

She said NMC currently pays employer contributions at the incorrect rate of 20 percent.

She said that in a conference call last Feb. 24 with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, she asked the governor as to his understanding of the government's responsibility to fund the shortage of NMC's employer contribution.

Tang quoted Inos as saying it was his understanding that NMC was responsible for the entire 30 percent employer contributions rate and that any previous agreement between the NMI government and NMC was limited in 2008 and not intended to apply in

definitely.

Following the call with Inos, Tang sent a letter to NMC legal counsel Mark Scoggins informing him of the government's position and demanded payment in the amount of \$71,749.43.

Tang said Scoggins responded on March 3, 2015, stating, "NMC's position on this issue will not change." She said Scoggins maintains that NMC will continue to rely on the plain language of the settlement agreement and will not increase its contribution.

In NMC's reply to Tang's report filed in federal court, Scoggins said they informed the trustee of their position that the plain language of a section of the settlement agreement states that "CNMI autonomous agencies shall make supplemental payments to the Settlement Fund in the amount of the employer contributions for these Settlement Class members at the same contribution rate they were paying as of June 26, 2013."

Scoggins said NMC was paying at the contribution rate of 20 percent on June 26, 2013, and NMC is paying "the same contribution rate NMC was paying as of June 26, 2013."

**JOIN THE ONLY CELL COMPANY ON ISLAND
THAT PROTECTS YOU FROM HIGH MONTHLY BILLINGS.**

CAP PLAN \$25/month

**1000 Local Call Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS**

Local Calls and SMS include Guam and the CNMI.

Unlimited Push-To-Talk

Excess local calls - 10¢/minute • Once your usage reaches \$45* your local calls become UNLIMITED for the month.

OTHER FEATURES & OPTIONS

Per Unit	Value Added Services
\$6/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) SMS
\$10/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) Calling
3¢/SMS	Philippines SMS to Sun Cellular
5¢/SMS	To all other RP networks



*FREE phone with 24-month sign-up to the \$25 Cap Plan. Phone models may vary and are subject to availability.
Some conditions apply.

/iconnectguam | iconnectsaipan.com | 888-8888

GROUND FLOOR HK PANGELINAN BLDG. MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU, SAIPAN MP 96950

iCONNECT
Push-To-Talk That Works!

MARCH ON

March on into AK
this month for the
best value on Saipan.



Corolla LE

COROLLA
Life Just Got Better

- Up to 37 MPG!
- Standard Bluetooth and USB Port!

from **\$127*** Per Paycheck



Prius C
MPGenius

from **\$127*** Per Paycheck



Prius HV
MPGenius

from **\$174*** Per Paycheck



Rav4 4x2
4 Real Life

from **\$153*** Per Paycheck



Sienna
Room To Grow

from **\$218*** Per Paycheck



4 Runner
Keep It Wild

from **\$233*** Per Paycheck



Tacoma Access Cab
Saipan is Tacoma Territory

from **\$153*** Per Paycheck

View our inventory on aksaipan.com

*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. Fees not included. RAV4 4x2 \$26,699. Total deferred \$30,567.95. Monthly payment \$331.85. 4 Runner \$40,699.00. Total deferred \$46,597.39. Monthly payment \$505.87. Corolla LE \$22,199. Total deferred \$25,415.99. Monthly payment \$275.92. Prius C \$22,099. Total deferred \$25,301.71. Monthly payment \$274.68. Prius HV \$30,399. Total deferred \$34,804.23. Monthly payment \$377.84. Sienna LE \$37,999. Total deferred \$43,506.07. Monthly payment \$472.31. Tacoma 4x2 \$26,599. Total deferred \$30,453.68. Monthly payment \$330.61. 25% down payment. 6.00% APR at 72 months term financing. Per paycheck based on 26 pay period per year. Actual mileage may vary. Vehicle not exactly as shown.



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.

#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan MP 96950

Telephone 234-5911

Showroom Hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm,
Saturday 8am to 12pm



**Let's
Go
Places**

Manta Ray tops JROTC accreditation inspection

Once again, the highly esteemed Manta Ray Battalion cadets and instructors proved themselves by achieving excellent results during the JROTC Program of Accreditation Inspection on March 3, 2015.

The inspection was held at the Saipan Southern High School JROTC classroom from 8:30am to 12:30pm. The inspectors for the day were Mark Pratt and Richard Butcher. The Manta Ray cadets and two instructors, CSM (retired) Richard Basa and SGM (retired) Joaquin Kiyoshi, were a part of this event.

There were six categories in which the battalion was inspected on: Staff Battalion Continuous Improvement Project Briefing, Service Learning Briefing, Cadet Portfolio and Interview, Unit Report, S1 – S5 (Battalion Staff) Interviews, and Instructor Interviews. The battalion was inspected on Drill, In-Ranks,

and Color Guard on Jan. 15, 2015 in which the cadets gave their best and obtained outstanding scores.

By the end of the inspection, the Manta Ray Battalion accumulated an exceptional score of 98.28 percent, which broke the record of being the battalion with the highest score among other 8th Brigade battalions, as well as breaking the record of being the most organized and fastest to get inspected, for the battalion was well prepared and wasted no time with the inspectors. (JROTC)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, ret. SGM Joaquin Kiyoshi, Richard Butcher, Mark Pratt, SSHS principal Martha Kintol, Lt. Col. Robert Gay, ret. CSM Richard Basa, and Manta Ray Battalion staff and cadets pose for a group photo right after the JPA Inspection results were announced.



CCA to visit schools for oral cancer awareness



By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Cancer Association will be visiting public middle and high schools

this month and April to provide better awareness on oral cancer, according to CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta.

He said the visits will allow junior high and high school stu-

dents to learn about issues regarding oral cancer where betel nut chewing is prevalent among the younger generation.

CCA took the initiative to kick-start the awareness out-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Cancer Association makes a presentation on oral cancer at the Tanapag Middle School. From left to right: CCA's Audrey Ada, Monica Pua, Dr. Irma Halaby, Mami Ikeda, Dr. Daniel Lamar, TMS counselor Erica Thornburg, Bianca Espinoza and CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta.

reach at Tanapag Middle School last Feb. 27. Babauta said they started around 8:30am and held a presentation to a group of 7th and 8th graders.

"We gave a PowerPoint presentation on CCA programs and services. School counselor Erica Thornburg and the teachers were in attendance. Dr. Irma Halaby spoke about oral cancer, sharing some powerful messages with the stu-

dents," Babauta said.

"Dr. Dan Lamar also conducted a similarly powerful and emotional presentation. Mami Ikeda also shared her heartfelt and powerful story," he added.

Babauta noted that they will be going to Kagman High School today, Friday, around 9am and was supposed to visit ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School around 12pm, but the latter was cancelled due to a development workshop.

On March 26, they will conduct their presentation at Hopwood Junior High School at 9am. March 27 will be at San Antonio Middle School, and then Dandan Middle School on April 9.

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month

CCA will also hold a proclama-

tion signing at 10am at the Governor's Office conference room.

The proclamation will declare April 2015 as Oral Cancer Awareness Month. Babauta said this will help people in the CNMI understand more about the dangers of betel nut chewing, as it is one of the leading causes of oral cancer on the islands.

» Oral Cancer Awareness Month proclamation next week

CCA will partner with dentists and cancer advocates for early detection of this disease and prevention of the disease through oral cancer screenings.

They will also hold a roadside waving on April 6 and an oral cancer forum on April 15. After April, CCA's signature fundraising event—the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer—will kick off on May 1 to 2.

International Buffet

Every Mondays to Sunday
6:00pm to 9:30pm
20% local discount
Children 4 to 11 yrs old: Half price

iSLA CAFE

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Weekend Lobby Food Fair!

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
6:00 - 9:00PM
Food \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00 menu

PCF names the Marianas Chapter's Class of 2015

The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter held its second annual Selection Saturday event on March 14, 2015, at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, which resulted in the choosing of the second group of Fellows for this program. A panel of notable community leaders made up the committee of judges picked to screen program applicants. Candidates were evaluated based on outstanding achievements, community recommendations, strength of character, leadership potential, communication skills, and community activities.

While some applicants were not selected this year, the

Mariana Resort invites public to its first ever Marpi Carnival

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cotton candy, rock, reggae and reverse water dunks are headed the island's way in Mariana Resort and Spa's first ever "Marpi Carnival" on April 11.

Mariana Resort, which celebrates its 37th year in the CNMI with the carnival, will donate all net proceeds to the Saipan Little League.

"We chose the carnival with food and beverages and games because we want to celebrate our 37th anniversary of serving the CNMI with the community members who have been with us for the past years and everyone who wants to join us," Mariana Resort property manager Charlene Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta said they aim to give back to the community by offering this event to non-profit organizations, school groups, and organizations the opportunity to raise funds for their cause.

"We hope to bring in a huge crowd so that all the participating organizations will be able to raise as much money for their groups," she said.

The minimal fee is \$50 for a space in a tent and \$25 for an open space for games. Business holders are welcome. The fee for business holders is a flat 10 percent of their revenue.

So far, Babauta said they have three food and beverage groups signed up, and one for ice cones and cotton candies. "We also have a booth that sells balloons and fun stuff. We also have games such as archery, reverse

overall candidate pool was stellar and undoubtedly impressive, leaving the judges with no easy task. After a series of interviews, followed by consideration of candidate achievements and grueling deliberations, 12 candidates were selected to become Fellows of the PCF-Marianas Chapter. The Class of 2015 is an impressive group comprising individuals who are educators and civil servants and representatives from the business sector. These selected Fellows are between the ages of 24 and 44, and the program established this age bracket as

water dunk and games for kids."

"The Battle of the Bands," will be the competition highlight of the event. HANMI'S 3rd annual Go-Kart Race competition happens that same day.

"The Battle of the Bands will be the main attraction for the carnival and we hope that this will bring in more crowds than we expect," she said.

Prizes are \$1,000 for the first place, \$500 for the second, and \$250 for the third. The prizes will all be coming from Kan Pacific. Requirements are that the bands have to have at least three people and sing three different genres: rock, local or reggae and ballad. The entrance fee is \$20.

While the Go-Kart Race just happens to fall on the same day as their carnival, Babauta said that Kan Pacific staff are heavily involved in this event as well.

"Currently, there are four managers from Kan Pacific with other members from other hotels such as Fiesta, Kanoa, Hyatt, Hafa Adai, PIC, and Century hotels who are part of the committee planning and coordinating this event," she said.

"This year, we are projecting over 30 race teams. And for the semi-finals and finals, the teams will be using the RC100 karts, which have new engines [that] can go as fast as 70 miles per hour."

The Go-Kart race starts at 8am. The carnival starts at 10am and ends 6pm.

Mariana Resort expects over 500 people to participate in the festivities, and hope you are one of them.

Guam priest resigns after being arrested

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Catholic Church says a priest in Guam has resigned as pastor after being arrested.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports the Archdiocese of Agana says it accepted Rev. Luis Camacho's resignation effectively immediately.

The archdiocese says Camacho was booked and released

a means of selecting individuals who are mid-career and looking to move forward on innovative and creative paths.

The 2015 Fellows Class includes: Rosalia Aldan, admissions specialist, Northern Marianas College; Amanda Allen, director of Distance Learning Education, Northern Marianas College; Edward Arriola Jr., marketing manager, Tan Holdings; Natalie Mable Ayuyu, office manager, RE/MAX Paradise Realty; Alex Camacho, general manager, Hertz/Triple J; Luis John Castro, public information specialist, Office of the Governor; John Demapan, transit information specialist, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority; Michael Ernest, assistant attorney general, Ca-

sino Commission, Attorney General's Office; Jonathan Liwag, Information Technology manager, Northern Marianas College; Judy Mendieta, management accountant/executive officer, Tan Holdings; Jaclyn Mendiola, Juvenile Court counselor, Division of Youth Services, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs; and Mark Rabauliman, secretary, Department of Commerce.

The PCF Marianas Chapter is a leadership development program with the sole purpose of uniting potential leaders and strong community intellectuals in order to strategically address some of today's most pressing matters. The Chapter is an extension of the PCF Program based in Honolulu, Hawaii, and founded by

former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann. The program jump starts with a Leadership Retreat for building cohesion as a class and tailoring of the program year to better fit the Fellows' learning and the current issues of our islands. The program year will then carry on with monthly sessions where Fellows will interact with leaders and skilled professionals from various sectors of business and government and all walks of life. The Fellows will graduate upon completion of the program year, and the knowledge gained from the program will go a long way to making more broad-minded leaders, more creative problem-solvers, and more confident global citizens.

Board chair Jerry Tan ex-

tends his congratulations to all of the newly inducted Fellows, and hopes that this adventure will lead all Fellows and the CNMI to a brighter, more solutions-oriented future. "I am confident this program will be promising in bringing together future leaders, and enhancing their potential and ability to create better and more sustainable solutions for the CNMI," Tan said. "I am pleased with the launch of the PCF Marianas Chapter, as it comes at a time when we really need fresh ideas at the table to tackle some of our age-old problems. I am hopeful that this program will continue to grow in the CNMI and I wish the Fellows Class of 2015 the very best on this adventurous and worth-while investment." (PCF)

37 years serving the CNMI
Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. dba Mariana Resort & Spa and Marianas Country Club

Fundraising Opportunities for interested groups and organizations

SAVE THE DATE
April 11, 2015 • 10:00am - 6:00pm

Marpi Carnival
Kan Pacific Pool Ground

All groups and organizations are invited to set up food and drinks booth or GAMES booth.

Groups and Organizations
\$25.00
open space for games like archery, bean bag throws, etc.

\$50.00
Space in tent for food and drinks and games

Business License Holders
10% of revenue collected

BATTLE OF THE BANDS
Limited Entries
Entrance fee: \$20.00
Prizes:
1st place - \$1,000
2nd place - \$500
3rd place - \$250

All proceeds will be donated to Saipan Little League
For more information or for Registration Forms, please contact Charlene Babauta at charlene.babauta@gmail.com or Roquita Norita at kitnorita@gmail.com

Same day event.....

HANMI 3rd Annual Go-Kart Race Competition
1st place - \$2,000 • 2nd place - \$1000 • 3rd place - \$500

All interested to partake in the race competition, please contact carlos_rivera@ceturyhotel-spn.com or lito.parulan@marianaresort.com

Mariana Resort & Spa

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 56

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

The return of the Clinton scandals

By RICH LOWRY
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

The grim forced march to a Hillary Clinton coronation just got a little grimmer. The Hillary email scandal—on top of the revelation of continuing foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation while she was secretary of state—is a nice reminder for Democrats about what they are signing up for.

The Clinton Restoration will require routinely defending the indefensible. It will require recalibrating all legal and ethical standards to suit the personal and financial interests of the Clintons. It will require a willingness to use these phrases with a shameless abandon: “old news,” “everybody does it” and “not technically illegal.”

The Clintons come from the Frank Underwood school of politics. What unites Bill’s roguish charm and Hillary’s relentless determination is an eye for the main chance, with adherence to the rules optional.

Hillary Clinton’s self-serving email arrangement is not the worst example, but it is textbook. Pretty much anyone in government knew that if you used your private account for official business, you had to copy your government account for record-keeping purposes. But Hillary didn’t even have a government account.

For this to have been an innocent oversight, we’d have to believe that Hillary—intimately familiar with the workings of government since at least 1979, when Bill became governor of Arkansas, and with the federal government since at least 1993—didn’t know how government email worked.

And that she happened to set up her own private email account with a server in her own house, registered under a pseudonym, in a fit of technological absent-mindedness.

As The Associated Press notes, homemade servers are inferior to professional facilities that “provide monitoring for viruses or hacking attempts, regulated temperatures, off-site backups, generators in case of power outages, fire-suppression systems and redundant communications lines.”

All of these were mere details compared with the one overwhelming advantage of her own server that clearly trumped every other consideration: “impressive control over limiting access to her message archives,” in the words of the AP.

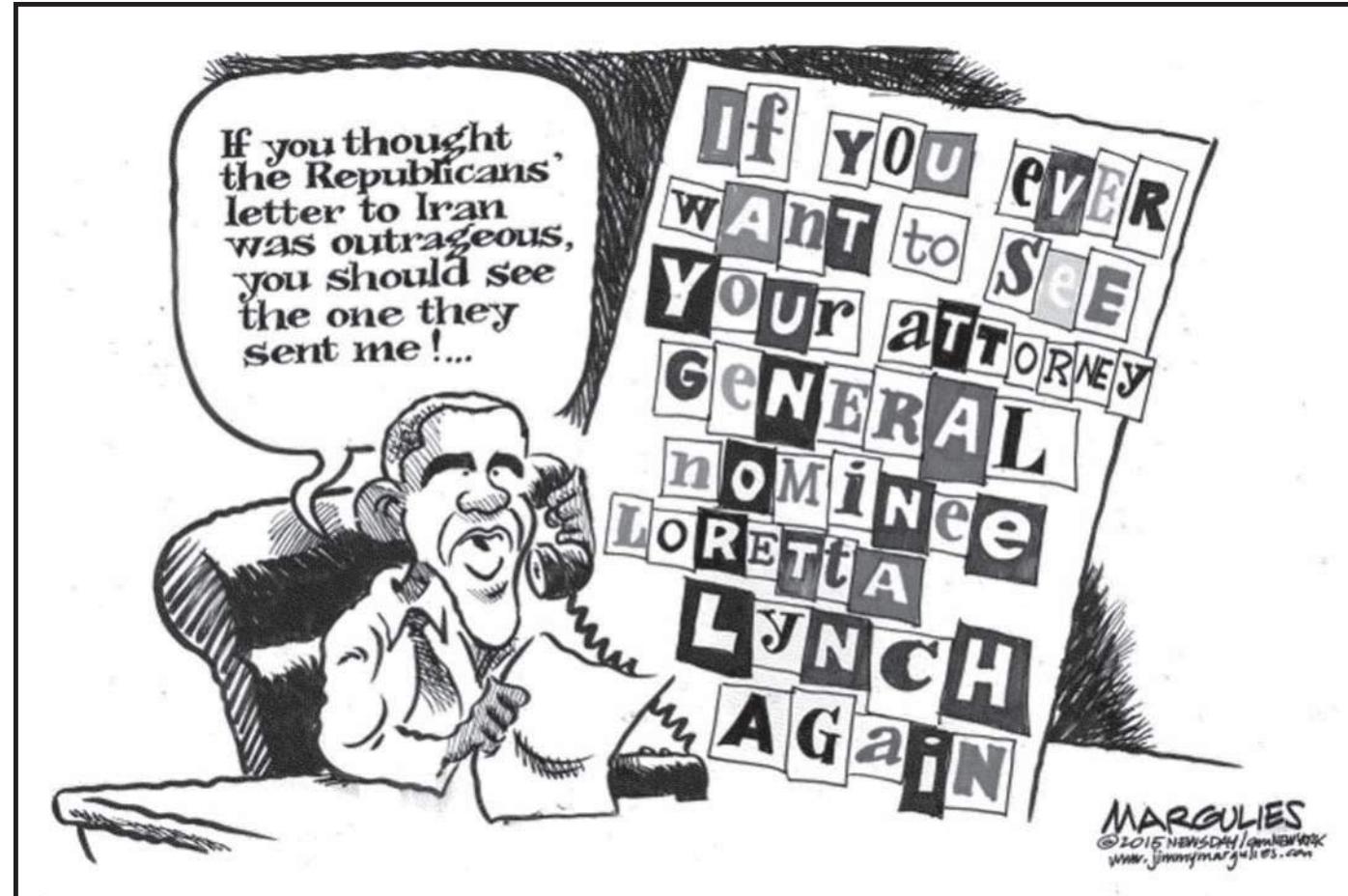
Recently, Clinton turned over to the State Department 55,000 pages of emails, and now she says she wants them released. But it is her flunkies who decided what to give the department. This is transparency Clinton-style.

The defense from Clinton world has been that everyone conducts official business on private email, so what’s the big deal? But her predecessor, Condoleezza Rice, and her successor, John Kerry, both managed to use government accounts.

The legal debate is now whether she merely violated the spirit of the law or actually broke it, the perpetual question with the Clintons.

If Democrats have liked what they’ve seen from Hillary the past couple of weeks, they should relish the prospect of the next two years, when any revelation can instantly put them back in Clinton scandal-defense mode. This is the future they are choosing, apparently without even bothering to consider an alternative with less baggage or higher standards.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



Rep. Aaron Schock should have kept his shirt on

The resignation of U.S. Rep. Aaron “Abs of Steel” Schock should come as no surprise.

The Illinois Republican from Peoria was once a rising GOP establishment star. And now his career is in shambles after weeks of questions over spending.

At least Schock has two things going for him:

He’s got great abs. And those of us who are challenged in the great abs department—I protect mine by wrapping them in fat—can appreciate perfection.

And the other thing is what Schock said himself: He’s not some old crusty white guy.

Some think Schock’s troubles started with the ridiculous and costly “Downton Abbey” makeover of his Washington office and that devastating interview with ABC News’ Jeff Zeleny, a former Tribune reporter who is now with CNN.

Others figure it was Schock’s ostentatious reading of style and gossip magazines, with photographs showing him thumb through them as if he were some kind of star-struck teenage girl.

Others say it’s the lavish spending trips, dinners and Katy Perry concerts. Or those exotic vacations with the Instagram shots of Schock doing adventuresome stunts.

But at least he’s not some old crusty white guy.

He said as much in that famous ABC News interview with Zeleny.

Schock: “I’ve never been an old crusty white guy.”

Zeleny: “What does that mean?”

Schock: “I’m different. I came to Congress at 27,” Schock said. “When I go take a personal vacation I don’t sit on the beach, I go do active things. And so, I’m also not going to live in a cave. So when I post an Instagram photo with me and my friends, as Taylor Swift said, ‘Haters gonna hate.’”

Haters are going to hate, but what did old crusty white guys do to Aaron Schock, anyway?

Now I’m wondering if Schock doesn’t wish he were an old crusty white guy, or an old crusty black guy. Or an old crusty Latino, or crusty old Asian guy for that matter.

Old crusty politicians are smart enough not to decorate their offices to resemble a hit TV show. And there’s another thing old crusty guys don’t do:

They don’t model their abs of steel in *Men’s Health* magazine like some office boy-toy.

“I was walking through Reagan airport and I saw it from 50 feet away at the newsstand and I said holy (bleep),” a prominent Midwestern Republican said Tuesday.

What did you see?

“That magazine cover with Schock flexing his abs, and like every other Republican with a brain, I was like ‘Bleep me.’”

That’s why I asked editors to attach that famous Schock abs cover to this column, to remind us of the dangers of narcissism in politicians. In the photo, Schock also has his shirt unbuttoned. And he’s unloosened his tie.

Let’s put it this way: He doesn’t look like he’s about to study ISIS-related cables or ask about corn and wheat subsidies.

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune



John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. His email address is jskass@tribune.com, and his Twitter handle is @john_kass.

From the article:

“And model he does. When he strolls into a New York City studio for his photo shoot, Schock isn’t sporting the typical boxy clothes that Beltway insiders wear in order to hide what’s stretching their belts. Instead, he’s decked out in a form-fitting Zegna suit and tapered shirt that show off both his musculature and his fashion savvy. He looks more like a hit man from a European spy thriller than a boring politician. ... In other words, Aaron Schock is pretty fly for a Republican from Peoria.”

Fly for a Peoria Republican?

The Republican Ray LaHood, who served for years as the congressman from Peoria before serving as U.S. transportation secretary, didn’t display his abs that way.

Come to think of it, I’ve never seen Ray LaHood’s abs. I wouldn’t think of asking to see LaHood’s abs. And I don’t think any voters in that district wondered about them either.

And former House Speaker Dennis Hastert, the Republican who was once quite chunky, never once showed off his abs. Liberal editorial boards never whined, “If only we might see Denny’s abs, we’d feel better about the GOP.”

The late Republican Sen. Everett Dirksen never showed his abs. If you dared ask him, I bet he’d flick a lit cigarette in your eye.

And among Democrats, the late Mayor Richard J. Daley never took off his suit coat, let alone displayed his belly. I don’t think he ever saw his own abs.

Current Mayor Rahm Emanuel is a fitness nut, but he’d never pose that way. Neither would his opponent, Cook County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia.

Clearly, they are not fly enough.

Unfortunately, President Barack Obama displayed his abs on a Hawaiian beach with his family. But he wasn’t in an office.

I do remember political figure and former Near North Insurance boss Michael Segal displaying his abs in federal court in 2004.

He told U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo that federal prison had caused a bad skin rash.

“I was told maybe I wasn’t taking enough showers and to buy a bar of soap,” Segal said, unbuttoning his federal orange jumpsuit. “I was in immense pain. When the rash goes to your private parts and the rest of your body, it’s not comfortable.”

What’s the moral of this story? Aaron Schock says haters gonna hate. But what about prosecutors? Are prosecutors gonna prosecute? I guess we’ll have to wait. Just keep your shirts on.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Email and grits

The vernal is equinoxing, which means that it's time for some spring cleaning. Don't worry, this will be a mere dusting. We won't move any furniture. After all, my '70s vintage beach chair, with its frayed nylon webbing, loose pop rivets, and oxidized aluminum tube-frame, has got plenty of life left in it.

The first order of business is to tidy up an email issue. I discovered that some email was sliding down the garbage disposal before I got to take a bite of it. This was because I tried to improve my efficiency by using the power of automation. Unfortunately, my power of knowing-how-to-set-things-up-correctly was somewhat lacking.

Before you start calling me a bonehead, I'll note that not all of my email was routed to the shredder. As I understand the situation, only email that contained vowels was destroyed.

Anyway, if you sent me an email but didn't get a response, don't sulk. Just resend.

And now I'll tidy up a couple of holdovers from earlier columns, so we can close the books on winter and enjoy spring's fresh promise.

Last week's screed pondered using eight verbs as a starting point for grappling with a foreign language. The verbs were: to be, to have, to go, to know, to speak, to like, to want, and to understand. Here at the *Tribune*, somebody mentioned an essential verb that merits inclusion: the verb "to do." That's a worthy addition indeed. Consider it added.

And let's offer a toast to the newcomer. "To do" is pretty much the slip-joint pliers of the verb world. Even when it's not the ideal fit, it's often times good enough to get the job done.

Of course, if someone ever lifts the hood on the great grammar machine, only to discover that the bolt-heads have all been rounded off, I guess they'll know who the culprit is.

Dealing with difficult imposition

When the feds took over control of immigration from the CNMI it instantly severed the other hand that normally works in tandem with the other. It's a vital tool in growing the local economy. The U.S. Congress repealed it in recent past. It no longer exists. It's gone!

Meanwhile, the CNMI is required to replace CW workers by 2019. It is a mandate hailing from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that enforces U.S. immigration laws. It's a significant federal imposition that leaves no room for excuses, including beach bonfire and rain dance.

How does this imposition measure up against the labor needs of BSI's \$7.1-billion integrated casino resort and other casino investments on Tinian? Meeting the labor requirements of all three islands turns into a challenge itself given the 2019 imposition to replace all CWs.

Early onset of fiscal fatigue

Now everybody seems to have rallied behind casino, from training to archaeological dig. No qualms with either but I get goose bumps when considering the volatility of the fiscal aspect of the project. Somehow it throws me up a seesaw swing where I see my partner only momentarily while I'm at the top.

The other challenge is the lumping of the CNMI's labor needs

Meanwhile, I heard from someone who is going to take up Vietnamese via self-study, which, to use a highly technical linguistic term, is totally cool. I've also known a few people who steered for Vietnam from Saipan, but I haven't heard from any recently.

Speaking of steering, we'll veer toward another holdover topic, namely the great American road trip. After I offered some notes on the gig in February, I found that I had infected myself with White Line Fever. The highway beckoned.

So my wife and I flew to New York, picked up an old car that nobody wanted, and took a meandering 16-state drive that ended at the Pacific's waters.

We dawdled in the South as much as possible. Sometimes dawdling was the only thing we could do, since a big snowstorm hit areas that weren't accustomed to such weather. But that was fine with me, it was just more time to sit around and eat grits. And if there's one thing I do better than sitting around, it's eating grits.

As for describing grits, well, I'll say it's kinda' sorta' like the corn version of congee. This isn't a good enough description to satisfy anyone, but nobody has offered me a better description, either. So let's just leave congee out of it, since congee isn't the point.

Grits is the point. And grits has to be prepared correctly (both in the mill and in the kitchen) in order to unlock its true potential. This topic doesn't have a large footprint, since grits is largely, maybe even exclusively, a vestige of the American South.

A waiter in Tennessee shared his recipe with my wife. I have subsequently been generous enough to offer myself as a testing platform for the process, and, as a result, I'm locked into a darned good grits situation now. We'll resupply via a product mailed from a mill in South Carolina.

On a more general road trip note, I noticed a few trends, all of

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



them good.

For example, the number of comfortable, mid-tier hotels looks to be increasing. Likewise, I saw a lot of fresh new hotels under construction, even in fairly sleepy areas that you wouldn't think could support such action.

Meanwhile, the truck stops of old have often been gentrified into several national brands that offer the vacationing car driver a family-friendly setting of food (basic, I'll admit), convenience stores, and good coffee.

There are many ways to wander the roads, but in my dotage I'm happy sticking to the big highways for most of my miles, then branching off to selected back-road routings for areas of interest.

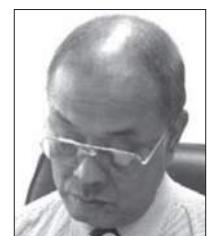
Overall, then, for the driver, I think it's never been easier to get around, and cheap gas (we often paid about \$2.15 a gallon) made things even better. So I enjoyed soaking up all that I can, while I can.

Well, that about wraps things up. Now that I've done my spring cleaning for this space, I'm ready to slump back down in my beach chair, update my photo album, and consider that I might be the only guy in the entire world having grits and bulgogi for lunch today.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

**Issues with MPLT**

If I recall correctly, the Constitution speaks loud and clear about investing money MPLT receives from DPL. It seems it has done well up that alley. But there are various issues where its actions may be highly questionable.

For instance, a Rota scholarship program of sort was given about \$1 million for the education of scholars. It is further rumored that this organization has gone belly up or bankrupt. Did MPLT recover whatever amount was given this scholarship board? If not, shouldn't MPLT go after individual property to ensure repayment of indigenous funds?

Furthermore, it seems every board member lays low whenever we question the decision to buy private land for its purpose when there are abundant public lands. Can some genius explain how this decision made it to the wisdom corner of the board? I mean the Settlement Fund has offices it could rent. Was this even explored? It's a matter of moving pennies, nickels, and dimes from one pocket to the next.

The mess warrants real time answers and perhaps the board could assist the indigenous people come to terms with its ill-fated decision hopefully soon. Are the NMD troops anywhere near Capital Hill? Or are these issues too sensitive to even attempt finding honest answers? It's indigenous funds after all, people! Why the indigenous passivity?

The issue must be resolved given that they aren't mature papaya or mango we could stash away until it ripens. Must have answers now!

Bloated government

There are two issues in our radar screen we've skipped conveniently amidst the bankruptcy of the NMI government. They are: 1). An expensive bicameral legislative system we could ill afford. 2). A bloated executive branch of nearly 4,000 employees, if not, more.

We've heard politicians spout of the former and did a lot of NOTHING! Would they honestly buckle down on the latter? Most would probably skirt it. What if there literally are no funds for government employees' paychecks? Has this ever occurred to our men of wisdom upstairs? We're on the brink of complete bankruptcy thus the dire need to do reality check on what's in the coffers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wanted: Wheelchair wheel

My name is Jim and I need your help. Apparently, the right front wheel of my son's wheelchair sprouted legs and walked off. This is a huge problem as we cannot order parts for this chair. I contacted the CAREX company and they told me that they cannot order individual parts since the wheelchairs come complete from China.

The wheel went missing several months ago and I have given up trying to locate a used wheel. Our only hope for using the wheelchair without constant tipping and crashing is if somebody finds that missing wheel. Since a single wheel is useless to anybody for any purpose, I figure it must have been pitched out somewhere, maybe in a field or a dumpster. I will pay \$40 NO QUESTIONS ASKED (I'm not kidding when I say I do not care about the details) for the return of this wheel. Please email Jaybyrd740@yahoo.com with any information you may have—I can send you photos of the missing wheel. Without this front wheel, the wheelchair is very hard to use and tips over all the time.

Thank you and God bless.

Jim

via email

Let's support the new mayor

Presently, the new administration of Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas holds a solid ground to be greeted with respect, patience, understanding, and cooperation. This is the rule of thumb that should be observed, openly and expressively.

Transformation has arrived on Tinian. The youthfulness of Mayor San Nicolas and his leadership speaks loud and clear that it's now time for the young generation to lead us into the future. The old guards of yesterday should-participate to welcome this change that has been long awaited.

Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas holds the honorable distinction to serve his people. He became mayor at the right time and place. He represented his people with pride by becoming an educated lawyer. He practiced law to the highest level of intellectuality and integrity. And he never put down his people for the education and profession he obtained through the support of his people.

Let's all march behind Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and extend our fullest support, love, peace, patience, understanding, and cooperation.

Martin M. Sakisat

San Jose, Tinian

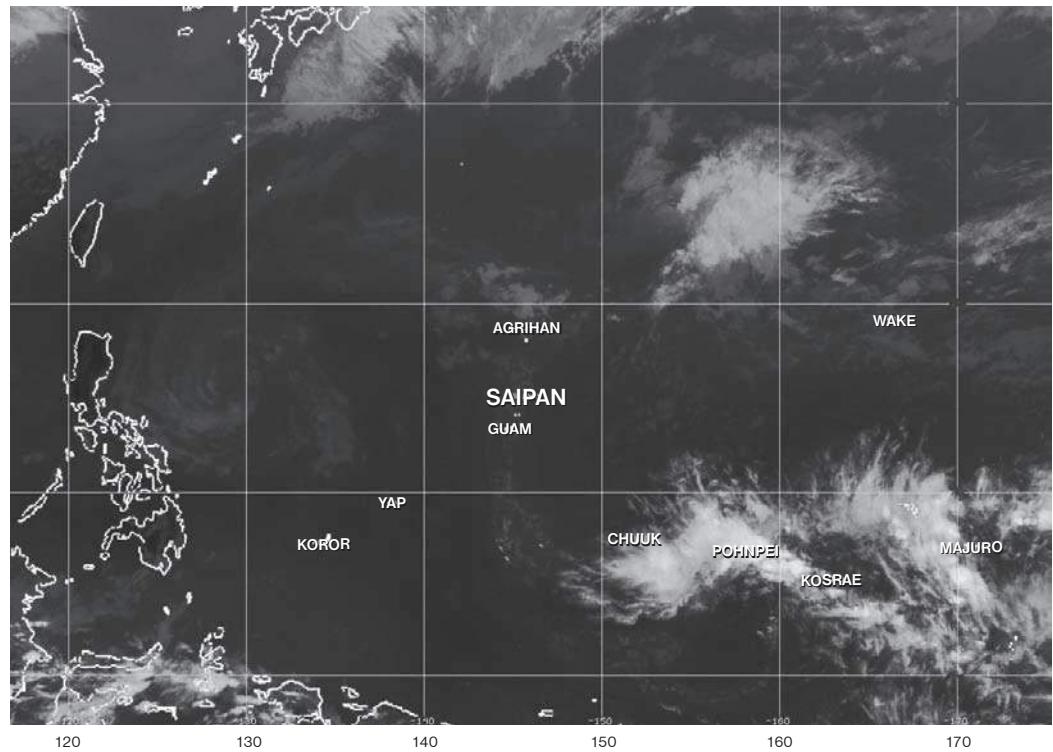
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87°	▼ 75°	▲ 87°	▼ 75°	▲ 87°	▼ 75°
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The remnant circulation of former Tropical Depression Bavi (03W) is centered near 16N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found between 11N and 19N from 130E to 136E. An old frontal boundary extends from 22N130E to 20N145E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of the boundary. A surface trough stretches from 22N150E to 25N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found northeast of the Marianas between 20N and 25N from 151E to 160E. A surface trough extends from 1N141E through a circulation southwest of Pohnpei near 6N156E to a second circulation east of Tarawa near 1N177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 4N and 8N from 152E to 160E and over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands between 1N and 10N from 160E to 180E. An old shear line boundary stretches from 18N158E to 16N165E to 17N180E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of the boundary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85	▼ 76
Palau	Sunny	▲ 83	▼ 71
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82	▼ 75
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 82
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72	▼ 58
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 38
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76	▼ 66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82	▼ 67
London	Cloudy	▲ 52	▼ 40
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78	▼ 57
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 90	▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68	▼ 50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 67
New York	Sunny	▲ 45	▼ 30
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64	▼ 46
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 51	▼ 41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 45
Rome	Sunny	▲ 67	▼ 48
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 44
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 38
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62	▼ 49
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54	▼ 35

Tides

2:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
8:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:20 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:56 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	7:22 PM
Sunday	7:37 AM	8:22 PM
Monday	8:28 AM	9:22 PM
Tuesday	9:19 AM	10:20 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA5068 8:00am 8:50am 3				UA5071 6:40am 7:30am 3			
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7				UA5071 7:15am 8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA5039 2:20pm 4:00pm 6, 7 via Rota				UA5039 1:00pm 1:50pm 6, 7			
UA5078 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 5				UA5038 1:10pm 2:40pm 2, 4 via Rota			
UA5038 3:10pm 4:00pm 2, 4				UA5077 1:50pm 2:40pm 1, 5			
UA5040 6:55pm 7:45pm 1, 5				UA5041 5:35pm 6:25pm 1, 5			
UA5078 8:35pm 9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7				UA5077 7:15pm 8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA5044 10:40pm 11:30pm 1, 5				UA5043 9:20pm 10:10pm 1, 5			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039 2:20pm 2:55pm 6, 7				UA5038 1:00pm 1:35pm 2, 4			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039 3:25pm 4:00pm 6, 7				UA5038 2:05pm 2:40pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 1:10am+1 2, 6 via NRT				DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6				DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily			
DL297 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily				DL288 8:55pm 1:25am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)							

Statement on full legalization of marijuana in the CNMI

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the testimony that the author presented at the two-day public hearings on Senate Bill 19-06 on Rota. The bill proposes to legalize the medical use of marijuana in the Commonwealth. Due to its length, this article is being published as a series.

Second part of a series

Just to give you a brief overview of the moratorium legislation I am proposing:

1. Under the moratorium the CNMI will have a government owned and operated industry retaining 75 percent of the revenues with 25 percent going to the partnership(s) in the private sector. The CNMI's moratorium will bring in more funding for our government than Colorado and Washington states combined as they are only collecting 7 and 8 percent in taxes but the CNMI will get 75 percent.

2. The CNMI will have the best controls over the accountability of the marijuana industry as a government operation. There are many pitfalls of privately-run operations that can be avoided under the government. We can depend on the government to control and monitor all marijuana and marijuana edibles. We don't have to worry about the government buying from unlicensed growers and making illegal sales as we see with private industry and individuals. We don't have to worry about the government making and selling illicit marijuana products. Trust me, the government is the best way!

3. There will be state dispensaries (stores) on all islands selling marijuana and local marijuana edibles, roots, and drinks under the supervision of the mayor's office. Only hotels and resorts that house guest can apply for a dispensary license to purchase from the government for the re-sale to tourists/guest in their establishments. This service is needed to protect the integrity of the tourist market, to protect the government's interest, and to help shield tourists from criminal elements who will try to prey on tourists who are marijuana smokers.

4. Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands will be the primary cultivation and exporting centers for the CNMI. Rota will also be poised to export to Guam and to Saipan. Availability of land and security limits cultivation on Saipan and there will be a need for almost a half-million plants in our first year based on Colorado's and Washington's consumption.

5. Under the moratorium private citizens can grow their own marijuana but will be limited in the number of "mature plants" as seedlings will not be considered usable. However, there will be conditions for shielding the plants from our youth and plain view. Growers will need a permit and rules will be created for permitting. For example: If your property is too exposed or too close to a school then you may not be allowed to grow on that property.

6. Individuals who grow their own marijuana can "barter" with their marijuana and others in the community for goods and/or services but not to be sold. All monetary sales are strictly reserved for the CNMI government and to prevent any federal intervention. Anyone caught selling without a license will be subject to federal prosecution, which is what happened in Colorado when illegal purchases or sales were made.

7. There will be designated smoke-free zones throughout the CNMI as well as on any private property where allowed by the property owner. The smoke-free zones shall be established by the municipal councils on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The smoke-free zones shall be marked with a red/yellow/green sign(s) to be designed by the CNMI Arts Council for the governor's approval, printing, and distribution to the municipal councils.

Safety sensitive jobs will not be excluded from marijuana testing. NMC will also be tasked and funded with the ability to document and generate a summary analysis on the marijuana industry in the CNMI. Based on NMC's report, the Legislature will then generate a marijuana initiative for the people to vote on in the next general election.

Day 2 statement

The legalization of marijuana offers genuine hope and prosperity for the people of Rota, that's why the mayor wanted me here! When I presented the concerns of people for full legalization yesterday, there were some things I did not talk about due to the time restraints.

The main reasons I'm here is for full legalization and to speak for the silent majority who want full legalization, which is a larger number of people than those needing marijuana for medical use. In fact, the support is so large I think this body should know that the House of Representatives is already considering changing this bill we are discussing today. I have talked with members of the House and they have assured me that they will be fighting to change the bill and to make marijuana legal for all use.

The House, which is responsible for finding sources of revenues for the government, is more concerned with full legalization and the potential for maximizing revenues as a government operation. Not only does this medical bill seem useless with federal law pending on medical use for all states, there is also the reality that the House

intends to change this bill anyway if it is sent to them in its present form. Just to show you how serious the House is, I'm presently working with the Vice Speaker to conduct a presentation to the House on full legalization and the moratorium. I just hope the one point that this body will leave with is that full legalization is what you should have on the menu and that it should be a government operation.

One of the main reasons I'm promoting the moratorium as a government operation is because marijuana is still against federal law. The federal government will respect and even defend the laws of our state level government and they will intercede when state laws are being violated. The only dealings with federal authorities in Colorado were when private businesses and citizens violated state marijuana laws. Who can best follow state laws is the only question and we know the answer is the state itself, not private citizens. The great part about this is the accountability of the entire marijuana operation to the state and not private business and individuals.

Ever since I first wrote about legalization I have been getting all kinds of encouragement to keep speaking up for the people. I was riding my motorcycle and was actually stopped by two police officers who just wanted to thank me and to tell me to please keep trying to get marijuana legalized. These two officers were

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose Bennett is a former teacher and an advocate for the full legalization of marijuana in the Commonwealth.



not concerned with smoking but concerned with the prime directive of our President who told America to "reform our marijuana laws and stop locking up our youth for something almost every adult has tried." This includes the President who has admitted to being a smoker. These two officers did not like the fact and reality that when they encounter drunks and belligerent people they get a passive treatment that does not involve jail but when a teen is caught with one marijuana cigarette the teen is taken to jail. These officers also knew that marijuana crimes in Colorado had dropped over 700 percent in the first year of legalization, giving the police more time and resources to work on the serious crimes.

To be continued.



Join us for the first drawing on March 31, 2015
500 items to be given away. Everybody wins.



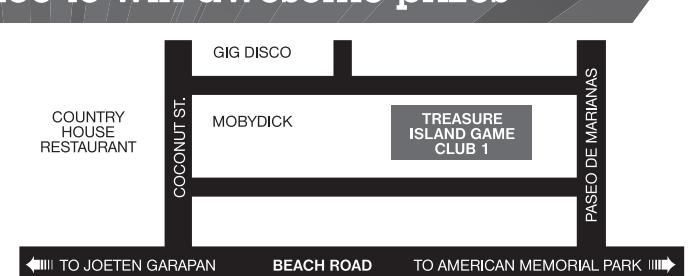
Use your Treasure Island VIP Player Loyalty Reward card to play and get a chance to win awesome prizes

\$10 redemption = 5 tickets



Tel: (670) 233-5100

You must be at least 18 years of age to enter Treasure Island Game Club and no alcohol is allowed on the premises.



NMD Corp. sets out to rebrand itself with new goals

The newly elected leadership of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. has been meeting weekly to brainstorm, set goals and objectives, and share ideas on what and how the corporation will approach issues in the CNMI.

"We are working on how to

rebrand ourselves and are taking a different approach on making decisions on our stance and that it has to be a win-win situation for both sides, for our NMDs and non-NMDs so that we all coexist together harmoniously. We want to educate our people on the importance of

our Covenant and Constitution, most especially our negotiations and agreements with the United States, 702 talks, 902 negotiation, immigration and labor," said a corporation statement issued yesterday.

"On our agenda are the Best Sunshine lease, expiring pub-

lic land leases, marijuana bill and the gun lawsuit. We are creating committees and will be appointing chairpersons to take on the identified items and issues at hand. The president has also appointed seven honorary board members and advisers so that they can take

part in our discussions. We want to and are collaborating with the Covenant negotiators, legislators, businesses community associations, and most especially our NMD people to gather feedback and information so the corporation can have firsthand knowledge on how we can assist them with their concerns."

To celebrate the Covenant Day holiday on March 24, Tuesday, the corporation will be having membership reg-

istration drive on that day, from 11am to 3pm at the Civic Center basketball court. It will also be having a general membership meeting at 1pm that same day, March 24.

"We are encouraging all NMD's to please come register and participate in the meeting," the statement adds.

Contact Joaquin "Andu" Sablan for more information at telephone number 287-6701 or email him at jsablan88@yahoo.com. (NMDC)

AFT Holdings joins aid efforts for Vanuatu

SAN DIEGO—AFT Holdings, Inc. announced yesterday that it is working within a group of companies to provide food supplies to the people of the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, which was devastated by Tropical Cyclone Pam over the weekend.

AFT's affiliated companies, including The Global Companies, South Pacific Tuna Corp. and Atlantic Natural Foods, LLC, which owns the Loma Linda brand, are committed to providing more than \$100,000 in foodstuffs to Vanuatu residents. The company will organize its aid distribution through the government and private agencies that are coordinating relief efforts.

According to the BBC, an estimated 3,300 people are

»Affiliated companies hold trusted relationship with Pacific island nation region

homeless and 11 people have been confirmed dead as a result of the storm. The World Food Program reports nearly 170,000 people have been affected.

AFT CEO James Douglas Hines, who was in Asia getting an update from the recent meetings held in Yap of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, said he feels compelled to act due to the companies' unique, decades-long relationship with the Pacific Island people, as well as his first-hand experience with such

storms as a Louisiana native.

Hines and his partners in the South Pacific Tuna Corp. are active participants in the current treaty negotiations between the United States and the Pacific Island Nations, which began March 19 in Auckland, New Zealand.

As reported by Atuna.com, there has been industry-wide frustration with the lack of resolve by the Fisheries officers to address the current financial situation currently being faced in fisheries throughout the region. The challenges could

have long-term material impact on the viability to the island economies as well as continued pressure on conservation of its resources.

"I am disappointed, but hopeful that all stakeholders will not give up a dialogue that creates positive solutions to present at the upcoming minister's meeting to enhance conservation efforts and improve economic conditions," Hines said.

"More importantly," Hines added, "as the devastation of Pam weighs heavily on our minds as treaty negotiations move forward, now is the time for all of us to put differences aside and reach out and provide assistance, nourishment and hope to the Vanuatu people in their time of need." (AFT Holdings, Inc.)

NMIS announces social media accounts

The Northern Marianas International School community can now be found in most of the popular social media outlets. "Social media is increasingly a primary source of information. The use of these channels by our system and schools will allow for more constant, and two-way communication with our parents and community members," said NMIS vice principal Jener A. Pineda.

Last year, NMIS reached 2,000 likes on its official Face-



Pineda

book page and 3,000 followers on its the Twitter account.

Another social media tool the school recently launched is a YouTube Channel. It features the official NMIS music video with the soundtrack *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. Other videos are from the K-3 and K-5 students titled *In the Eyes of a Child* by Air Supply, and the *Farewell Song* of the 6th and 8th graders.

"Be part of our community and feel free to interact with us, leave comments or post inquiries you may have and our online community will be happy to assist you," Pineda said.

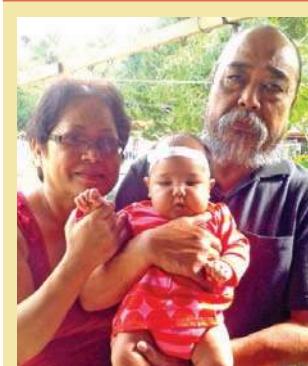
NMIS' social media accounts include Facebook: www.facebook.com/northernmarianasinternationalschool.com; Twitter: nmissaipan; YouTube channel at nmissaipan; Instagram: nmissaipan; and website: www.northernmarianasinternationalschool.com. (NMIS)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

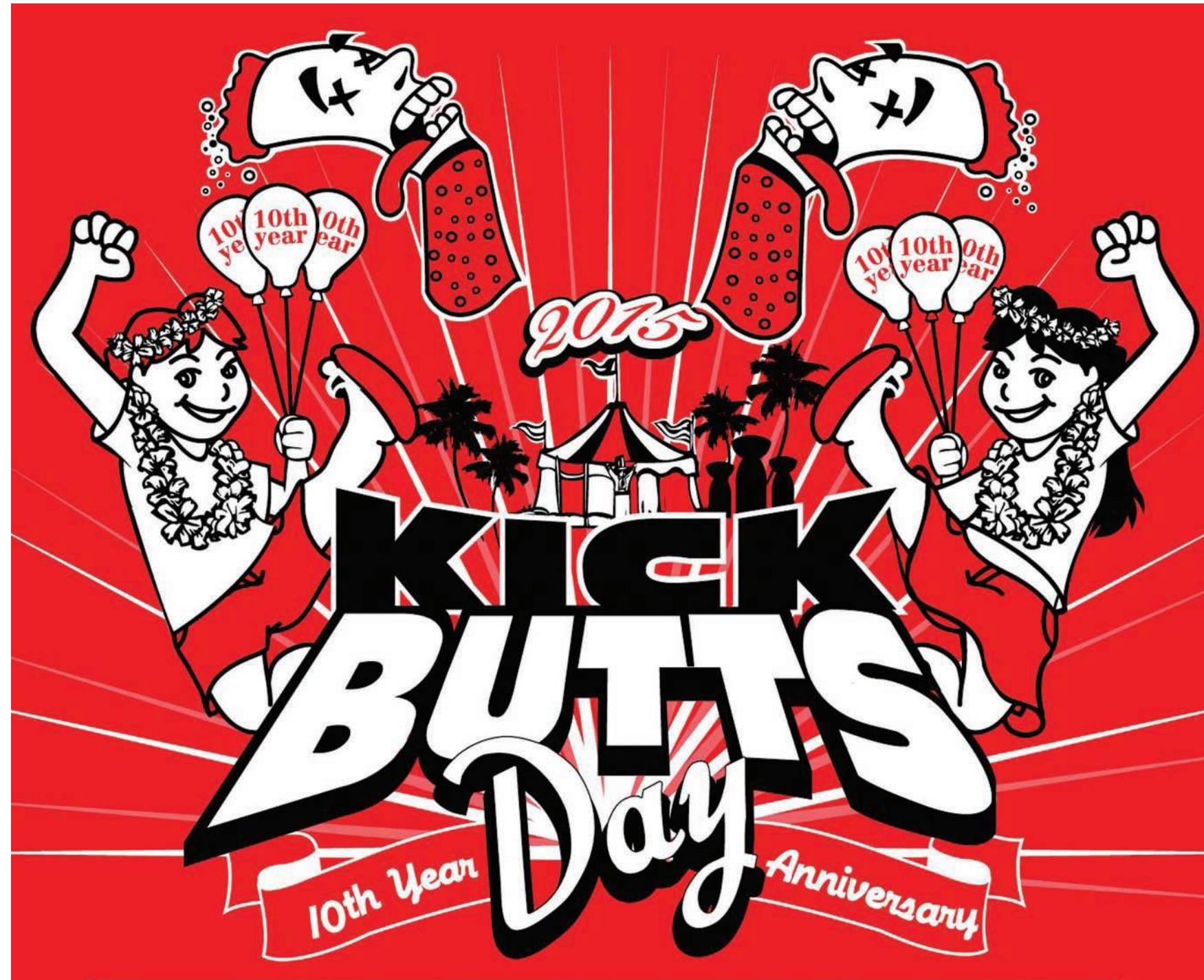


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Jenisha Jo! God gave us a gift when you were born. We love you always and forever more.

BLESSED ANNIVERSARY



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy anniversary to Jose A. and Magdalena S. Mendiola, who celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on Thursday, March 19! To Nana and Papa, wishing you both the best and many more to come! Love always, from Madilynn Rose, Nonisha Mae, Ha'ani Marie, Jayley Jo', and Jayden Joe.



March 24, 2015 (Tuesday) 6:00a.m - Registration

7:30a.m. - Parade begins (Mt. Carmel Field to Hopwood Jr. High School)

8:00 a.m. - Event and Activities starts

MVA board takes up public restroom issue

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In order to give tourists a better impression of the Commonwealth, the Marianas Visitors Authority deliberated on whether or not it should maintain public restrooms, especially those in Marpi.

In their regular board meeting yesterday, MVA board members, through its China Ad-Hoc Committee, requested to have a portable restroom installed at the Bird Island Lookout.

Bad experiences with portable restrooms, however, changed the board's minds and the topic shifted into MVA actually constructing and maintaining public restrooms up in Marpi.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio told board members that public restrooms in Marpi need to meet exceptional standards for tourists.

MVA board member Jerry Tan said that if the money is there, the agency should step in and maintain the permanent restrooms.

"Before we can do anything, we can't just put anything in if it's not permanent... We can put our resources into one or two bathrooms and fund it while maintaining it. I personally don't like to use portables, it's not a nice experience and also personally I don't agree to build one if it won't be maintained," Tan said.

So far, not everyone is pleased

with the state of public restrooms in the Commonwealth.

MVA board member Chris Nelson said the MVA should also take a look at the public

restroom situation in the entire CNMI.

Majority of the areas that Nelson mentioned include the public restrooms at the Ameri-

can Memorial Park, beaches, and other public restrooms that are barely maintained or worse, closed.

Tenorio said they hope to re-

solve this problem by having the private sector come in and help. He noted that MVA is already "reviewing submissions."

One other issue is the comparison of restrooms to other countries such as Korea and Japan.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said that instead of putting a notice in restrooms, they can communicate this issue with the travel agencies.

All board members agreed to discuss this further in future meetings.

2015 CNMI Hospitality Expo

The Expo showcases NMI's #1 industry: our hotels, resorts, supporting business and vendors.

See first hand what is new at our resorts: Memberships, banquet & catering, dining, spas, entertainment and amenities. Also view the variety of job/career opportunities our hospitality industry offers.

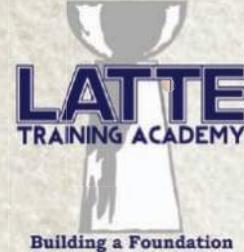
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Free to the public. – Free Raffle tickets for wonderful hotel and vendor prizes

Entertainment by Larry Lee's Ukelele Class and Dandan Elementary School MTEC.

Sponsored by the Latte Training Academy & Island Training Solutions

Training partners for the
The American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute



Contact Jim Arenovski at 287-7037 for more information or to register your hotel/resort or business.

Friday March 27 | World Resort | 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM



FREE TINT

FREE ZIEBART UNDERCOAT

FREE ONE YEAR MAINTENANCE

\$22,995
OR
\$169
per paycheck*

NEW 2015
ROGUE SELECT™

Passing other cars, climbing hills, mastering the ins and outs of traffic-when you tap into the spirit of the Rogue you tap into innovative practicality and efficiency. The 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine gets a remarkable 28 MPG (highway) and is backed by 170 horsepower and 175 lb-ft of torque. Simply put, Rogue rises up to adapt to a lifestyle of versatility and flexibility.

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

* Nissan Rogue Select retail price \$22,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$364.26 or \$168.12 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$21,855.60.


**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

**CHILD CARE and DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
New Applicants CNMI Wide**

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs continues to do pre-eligibility assessments in the CNMI for **full time students/training only**. A total of 50 slots will be available CNMI wide. Pre-eligibility will cease and applications will no longer be available once the 50 slots are taken or by April 30, 2015 whichever is earlier.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time:

Location	Date	Pre-Eligibility Assessment Time	Submission Dates and Time	Final Date to Submit Application
Saipan CCDF Office Bldg. 1347 Capitol Hill	On-going	9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.	9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Every day except April 1 and 2 due to Invoice Submissions and April 10 and 13 due to co-payment submissions	April 30, 2015
Rota and Tinian Please Call CCDF Office in Saipan				

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

A. For Full Time Students or in Training with Zero Income:

- School Documents such as acceptance letter and/or class schedule
- Must be enrolled full time (12 credits)
- If attending ABE must provide letter from ABE Office indicating that the student is considered full time
- In Training: must have documents indicating a minimum of 40 training hours bi-weekly

B. For Full Time students with income:

- All requirements under letter A plus
- Three (3) latest check stubs **showing:** Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for year 2013 for both parents

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

For questions regarding the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program please call any of the CCDF Eligibility Specialists at 664-2575/664-2589/664-2576.

Full Requirements
Applicant of Household

1. Three (3) latest check stubs each parent or legal guardian (if legal guardian, must provide copy of Court Documents)
 - a) Applicant's Full Name
 - b) Hours worked (minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly)
 - c) Hourly Rate
 - d) Gross Monthly Earnings
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian
 - a) Passport
 - b) CN M1 Driver's License
 - c) Mayor's ID
 - d) CW1, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2013 (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: Provide one of the Following:
 - a) House Rental / Mortgage
 - b) Utility Receipt
 - c) Telephone Receipt
 - d) CW1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
5. Employment verification (CCDF Form)
6. Training/Education Verification
 - a) Letter of Acceptance from Institution
 - b) Full time student
 - i. Twelve (12) Credit Units
 - ii. Letter from ABE Indicating full time status
7. Notarized Affidavit indicating (CCDF Form)
 - a) Parent is single
 - b) Child Support Statement
8. Status: CW1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics documentation (if applicable)

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Income Eligibility

Family Size	Income Level
1	\$1827.00
2	\$1827.00
3	\$2126.00
4	\$3126.00
5	\$3700.00
6	\$4274.00
7	\$4848.00
8	\$5421.00

Approved for distribution:

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Date: March 10, 2015

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families



In this Tuesday, March 17, 2014, photo provided by UNICEF Pacific, a man looks into the remains of a house in the wake of Cyclone Pam. AP

Vanuatu desperate for food and water

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (AP)—

Relief groups struggled to get supplies to residents living in Vanuatu's cyclone-ravaged outer islands on Thursday, as survivors grew desperate for food and water five days after the fierce storm flattened villages across the South Pacific nation.

With power, phones and Internet still down across much of the country, officials faced logistical headaches in sorting out where to send supplies, particularly in Tanna Island, which was hit hard by Cyclone Pam's 270 kilometer (168 mile) per hour winds. Tanna's roads remained blocked by debris, forcing aid workers to hike across the island to inspect damage to schools and other buildings, UNICEF said.

"The phone network being down makes things incredibly difficult," said Evan Schuurman, a member of Save the Children's emergency response team. "It's meant that it's taken a lot longer to actually find out what's happening in some of the outlying islands, and so the sooner the communications can get back up and running, the better."

Though the death toll from the disaster stood at 11, officials and relief teams were growing increasingly concerned about islanders' long-term survival, with food and water scarce in the worst-hit areas and access to some of the archipelago's more remote islands remaining difficult.

More than 100 residents on Tanna, including the elderly

and a newborn, have been sheltering in a store since Friday. With no relief supplies yet to reach them, they have taken to eating fruit they find on the ground and drinking water from a creek to survive.

Planes have been carrying food, water and medical supplies to Tanna and neighboring Erromango Island for two days, and a boat stocked with canned goods, biscuits and water was expected to head to the island on Thursday or Friday. But distributing it to the island's villages remains difficult.

"Food and water is the biggest issue in Vanuatu at the moment," Schuurman said. "So many people are subsistence farmers and entire crops have been lost."

UNICEF estimates that nearly 5,000 people across Vanuatu have no access to drinking water. The problem is especially worrisome on Tanna, which suffers from water shortages in the best of times.

Tanna's water towers were knocked over by the storm and wells built close to the shore were contaminated, said Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, disaster coordinator for the UN's humanitarian affairs office. Several more flights carrying water and water purification tablets were heading to the island on Thursday, and officials were hoping to set up water purification units, he said.

Around the capital, Port Vila, Save the Children workers spent Thursday distributing

ing food and water to survivors sheltering in more than 20 evacuation centers.

"Most of them have lost everything—their homes have been badly damaged or some completely destroyed," Schuurman said. "A lot of them are from farming communities as well, and so they've lost their crops and they've lost their source of food, so this support is critical for survival."

Thousands of people remained homeless, with more than 3,300 sheltering in evacuation centers on Efate and in the provinces of Torba and Penama, according to the U.N.

Though officials were still conducting damage assessments and had yet to reach many of the outer islands, the nation appeared to have avoided mass casualties. Many locals rode out the cyclone in larger buildings such as schools and churches—a practice that relief groups have impressed upon Vanuatuans as a life-saving measure during storms.

Vanuatu is frequently battered by cyclones in the southern hemisphere's summer months and lies along the Pacific's "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanic activities are common. Most communities have buildings designated as evacuation centers.

"A lot of people did evacuate," said Hanna Butler, an aid worker with the Red Cross in Vanuatu. "Here in the Pacific, we know that disasters happen every year at this time."

18 organizations collaborate with NMC on Health Fair

Several more organizations have signed on to partner with the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club to host the upcoming Health Fair.

They include FHP Health Care, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Ace Hardware, Uncle Ben's Studio, Subway, Marianas Pacific Distribution Inc., Let's Move Marianas, Hardt Eye Clinic, Gold's Gym, Coral Ocean Point, Coca Cola, College Access Grant Program, Kanoa Resort, Bestseller, AHEC, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, and Health Craze.

All community members are invited to the Health Fair, which is on Saturday, April 11, 2015, from 8am to 1pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The aim of the health fair is to increase awareness about healthy lifestyle habits and practices.

Health fair activities will run from 8am until 1pm but will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 7am. The first 20 participants who finish the 5K will also receive T-shirt prizes. Entrance to the 5K Walk is free for all community members.

The health fair is also supported with the assistance of Let's Move Marianas Campaign, the College Access Challenge Grant, Area Health Education Center, the Associated Student of the Northern Marianas College, and the Office of the Dean of Student Services.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be games and information booths, as well as



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Northern Marianas College nursing student preps a community member for her free vaccination shot during last year's Health Fair. This year's Health Fair will be on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

lifestyle by eating the right types of food and becoming more physically active," said NMC Nursing Club president Maria Atrero. "This is also a wonderful opportunity to learn about the different resources available in the CNMI."

For additional information about the health fair, contact the NMC Nursing Club at 237-6741/6743 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

Sablan Enterprises, Inc dba SABLАН REALTY



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao

Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM

Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, KRM General Merchandise, Subway "Eat Fresh"

Sunday Bazaar

8:00AM to 5:00PM

SABLАН REALTY

invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. Maintenance Free.

Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.

Commercial Space for Rent

at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings.

Sablan Building in San Jose

Units on the Second Floor are available at 50¢ per square foot.

SPECIAL RENT PROMO

Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA

we have rental space available on the first floor now at 50 cents per square foot for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft.

Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at 35¢ per square foot.

Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at 50¢ per square foot.

3rd Floor (2 Units) 2 Bedroom Apartment at \$354.00/mo.

2nd Floor Office Space (2 Units) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - 800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.

Contact Tony Muna

(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan (Email Address:ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BAITO?

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:

To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.

LED TUBES Best Price in Saipan

Less & More

- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

Electric Tools NEW ARRIVALS

Made in USA

Jig Saw, Hammer Drill, Finish Sanders, Circular Saw and etc.

ACCESSORIES OF KITCHEN & BATH

Stainless & Space-Age Aluminum

NEW ARRIVALS

Storage Rack • Towel Rack

ALUMINUM WINDOWS

New Arrivals

MADE IN USA | All Sizes

VARIOUS STYLES:

French, Aluminum, Bronze

NEW DESIGNS!! FASHIONABLE CERAMIC TILE

Big Promotion!

The Best Price and Quality on Saipan

SPECTRUM PAINT

- Special Formula for Tropical Marine Climate
- Longer Service Life
- Top Quality
- FLAT & SEMI-GLOSS INT & EXT LATEX

MAHOGANY LUMBERS & DOOR JAMBS

HIGH QUALITY/FULL SIZE

CHAIN LINK FENCE

Full Size

"The Best Price on Saipan"

REBAR US STANDARD

#3 TO #8

MADE IN KOREA

U.S. LUMBER

PRESSURE TREATED / REGULAR

15% TO 75% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950

TEL: (670) 288-2289/2289/6688

FAX: 288-4488

E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com

Business hours:

Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

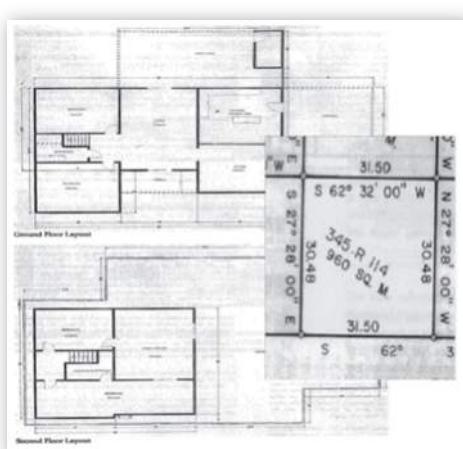


NOTICE OF SALE

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby gives notice that it is seeking interested buyers, bids and proposals for the fee simple purchase or the leasing of its foreclosed property located in Sinapalo, Rota. Asking price is \$150,000. Deadline to submit offers is Thursday, April 30, 2015. Award will be based on best offer.



2 storey concrete house; 2,865 sq. ft. dwelling area in Sinapalo, Rota



Please call our office on Rota at 532-9408 or Saipan at 234-6245 ext. 306 or 310 for more information on the property and to inquire about our Fee Simple Purchase and Ground Lease Option to Purchase Programs or check our website at www.developcnmi.com.

Business

Starbucks CEO defends 'Race Together' after backlash

NEW YORK (AP)—Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz on Wednesday defended the company's new "Race Together" campaign that has been criticized for being naive and even using racial tensions to boost its bottom line.

The chain, best known for its Frappuccinos, will have U.S. workers write "Race Together" on cups. Starbucks also plans to start publishing "conversation guides" on the topic, with questions like "How have your racial views evolved from those of your parents?"

During its annual meeting in Seattle, Schultz said the company is trying to use its massive reach for good: "Some in the media will criticize Starbucks for having a political agenda. Our intentions are pure."

The campaign is the latest example of a big company trying to tie its brands to big social issues. The move comes as consumer brands acknowledge that customers are increasingly drawn to companies that project a feel-good image or embrace social causes.

But it also illustrates how such efforts can fall flat if people don't see a clear correlation between the social cause and the company's products. After it was announced early this week, the Starbucks' campaign was widely ridiculed on social media by people who said it's opportunistic and inappropriate for a coffee chain to insert itself into such an important issue. Others questioned whether Starbucks executives think the chain's workers could spark productive conversations about race relations while serving lattes.

An executive on Starbucks' communications team, Corey duBrowa, even blocked people on Twitter before temporarily taking down his account. DuBrowa later said in a post on Medium that he felt he was being "personally attacked in a cascade of negativity" and that he had gotten overwhelmed.

At its annual meeting, Schultz said he didn't think Starbucks would solve the country's "centuries old problems of racism" but that he thinks it can make a difference. He



said workers don't have to participate, and that stores will

make customers another drink or cover up cups if they don't

like the message. "This is not a marketing or P.R. exercise,"

Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz speaks while photos of coffee cups with #RaceTogether written on them are projected behind him, Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at the coffee company's annual shareholders meeting in Seattle.

Schultz said.

Laura Ries, a branding consultant based in Atlanta, said that addressing big important issues of the day has become a way for companies to make themselves a part of the conversation. Otherwise, nobody is sitting around on Twitter discussing brands, she said.

Fed redefines the unemployment range it considers acceptable

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve was in a tough spot: The February U.S. unemployment rate of 5.5 percent is right where the Fed had been saying inflation would likely start to accelerate. Yet inflation remains even lower than the Fed wants it to be.

So on Wednesday, the Fed simply moved the goalposts. It now says unemployment

could fall as low as 5 percent to 5.2 percent before inflation pressures would probably start to build. That's down from its previous range of 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent.

That shift is a big reason many analysts think the Fed has in effect postponed the date when it will start raising the short-term interest rate it controls. Many now expect it to

start raising rates in September or even later after having previously predicted June.

Investors welcomed the possibility of lower rates for longer, sending the Dow Jones industrial average up 227 points.

"With the stroke of a pen, rather than being at the top end of full employment ... we're farther away," said Allen Sinai, chief economist at Decision

Economics.

As the unemployment rate falls, it typically reaches a level at which employers must raise pay to find qualified workers to hire. Those employers then raise prices to offset the higher wages they're paying, which usually accelerates inflation. The unemployment rate that triggers higher prices is generally considered "full employment."

Labor secretary says new overtime rules coming soon

WASHINGTON (AP)—Labor Secretary Tom Perez told Congress on Wednesday that his agency is still working on President Barack Obama's directive a year ago that the department come up with new rules to make more workers eligible for overtime pay for working beyond their scheduled hours.

Perez said a few more months are needed. "We're actually working overtime on this," Perez told a House panel.

The new rule could result in larger paychecks for millions of workers.

Overtime and minimum wage rules are set by law in the Fair Labor Standards Act, which Congress originally passed in 1938. That law gives

the administration some leeway to define the rules.

The law requires most workers to be paid overtime—1.5 times their regular wages—if they work more than 40 hours per week. The law allows exemptions for executives, managers and professional workers and sets the salary threshold above which workers don't have to get overtime

pay. The law also gives employers leeway to define workers as supervisors, and thus ineligible for overtime, even if they spend much of their work day performing non-supervisory work.

New rules would likely establish a minimum amount of managerial duties that a worker would have to carry out to be exempt from overtime.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS/SORNA-044**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 01, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) STAND ALONE LIVE SCAN FINGERPRINT SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-048(A)(B)(C)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 14, 2015 **TIME: 10:30 AM**

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) TRAILERS FOR BOATS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN ANY BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.)

/S/ JUAN M. SABLON
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500135
Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Governor's Conference Room located in the first floor of the Juan A. Sablan Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes – February 19th & 26th, 2015

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
III. REPORTS:
A. Chairman's Report
B. Committee Report
C. Executive Director's Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS:
A. Commission Office Rental – Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai
B. Commission FY2016 Budget Submission

V. NEW BUSINESS:
A. Adoption of Casino Gaming Emergency Regulations
B. Commissioner's Training Seminar – April 20-24, 2015.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticon.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR MOWER TO ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

**INVITATION FOR BID
CPA-IFB -005-15**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor Mower for the Benjamin T. Managlona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package is available beginning March 20, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: "Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-005-15. CONFIDENTIAL"

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 10, 2015. Bid opening will occur after this date/time at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor – Departures Building.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to atudela@cpa.gov.mp (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than April 03rd, 2015. Any question or clarification will not be entertained after April 03rd, 2015. Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

Nation

Audio of Durst in bathroom could play 2 ways in murder case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The whispered words of Robert Durst recorded in an unguarded moment in a bathroom could come back to haunt him—or help him—as he faces a murder charge.

A possible move by prosecutors to introduce the incriminating material from a six-part documentary on his strange life and connection to three killings could backfire as interview footage did in the Michael Jackson molestation trial and the Robert

Source: Secret Service knows suspect in cyanide probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The person suspected of sending an envelope to the White House that may have contained cyanide is known to the Secret Service and has sent multiple suspicious items over the last two decades, a federal law enforcement official familiar with the investigation said Wednesday.

The official said the suspected sender has previously sent packages with rambling messages and foreign substances. The official was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The envelope was received at a mail processing center

Blake murder case.

In both cases, the defense was allowed under the “doctrine of completeness” to provide segments of interviews that presented their clients favorably without subjecting them to tough cross-examination.

“I submit that Blake didn’t have to testify and Michael Jackson didn’t have to testify because the prosecution foolishly wanted to introduce portions of their interviews,” said attorney Thomas Mesereau

Jr., who represented both men. “They just got greedy. They were mesmerized by portions they thought could help them.”

In the Jackson case, the defense used unaired footage to counter damage done by “Living With Michael Jackson,” a damning documentary in which Jackson held hands with his accuser and spoke of letting children into his bed.

“I’d slit my wrists before I’d hurt a child,” Jackson said in one outtake shown by the de-

al comment on the matter.

Suspicious letters often are sent to some of the country’s leading politicians, including the president. Some test positive for hazardous substances while others include threats of death or other physical harm.

In June 2013, a West Virginia man was indicted on charges of threatening to kill Obama and his family in a letter that included profanity and racial slurs. A federal judge later dismissed the charges after forensic handwriting analysis conducted by the Secret Service showed that 20-year-old Ryan Kirker of McMechen, West Virginia, didn’t write the letter.



AP
Robert Durst is escorted into Orleans Parish Prison after his arraignment in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court in New Orleans, Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

fense, according to Mesereau, who won the performer’s acquittal 10 years ago.

In the Durst case, prosecutors could seek to play portions from “The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst,” that concluded with the eccentric millionaire off camera talking to himself in a bathroom with his wireless microphone still live.

“There it is. You’re caught!” Durst whispered before the sound of water running can be heard. “What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course.”

Durst was arrested in New Orleans on Saturday, the day before the final episode aired.

Report: Blacks, Hispanics doing better but still lag whites

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite high-profile concern over issues underscored by the racial unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, African Americans and Hispanics are faring well in certain areas, including better health care and reductions in violent crime, the latest State of Black America report from the National Urban League says.

The National Urban League derives its numbers from an “equality index” that is based on nationally collected data from federal agencies including

the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With full equality with whites in economics, health, education, social justice and civic engagement set at 100 percent, the National Urban League said this year’s equality index for blacks stands at 72.2 percent, an improvement over a revised index of 71.5 percent from last year. The equality index for Hispanics improved to

77.7 percent, compared with 75.8 percent last year.

The Urban League will release the full report on Thursday.

The greatest increases for blacks came in health care and social justice, the Urban League said. Improved health care—to 79.8 percent from 78.2 percent—resulted from increased health insurance coverage since the passage of the national health care law and a decrease in binge drinking by blacks.



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

ADDENDUM NO. 1
March 18, 2015
RFP15-GOV-038

Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project

The previously advertised, Request for Proposal (“RFP”) for the “**Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project**” has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend dateline for the proposal submission. The RFP shall read as follows:

Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP15-GOV-038, “Commonwealth Health Center North Wing Elevator 1 Project”**”. For proposers within the CNMI, an original and two copies of their proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 AM ChST Monday, March 30, 2015. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposals by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 AM ChST Monday, March 30, 2015, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of their proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Monday, March 30, 2015 and must be received no later than Thursday, ChST, April 9, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST Monday, March 23, 2015 to Mr. Carl Castro, COTR, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions should be shared with other prospective contractors.

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative at (670) 664-2375 or by fax at (670) 664-2408.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-005, Rev.1

W-4, W-5 AND W-6 SEWER LIFT STATION ELIMINATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project is composed of a Base Bid Items and 3 Additive Bid Items. The base bid consists of construction of a new lift station to replace the existing W-5 lift station; installation of new gravity mains from existing W-4 lift station to the new W-5 lift station, installation of force main from the new W-5 lift station to the nearby gravity sewer main, thereby eliminating existing sewer lift stations; installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) products; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the W-4 generator building and appurtenances; demolition and restoration existing minor structures and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. Additive Bid No. 1 consists of archaeological and unexploded ordnance standby and monitoring services. Additive Bid No. 2 consists of a bar screen and appurtenances for the new W-5 lift station. Additive Bid Item No. 3 consists of the installation of new gravity sewer main and manholes from existing W-6 lift station to W-5 such that W-6 can be eliminated; demolition of the W-6 electrical building, new laterals, and the restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 350 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-005, Rev.1, W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 21, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 2, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer via email at john.riegel@cucgov.org and Nicolette Villagomez, Junior Engineer, Water & Wastewater via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Asia

Deadly Filipino anti-terrorism raid bittersweet for US forces

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—American involvement in a recent Philippine assault that is believed to have killed a top Southeast Asian terror suspect but left scores of Filipino commandos dead is a bittersweet finale to a decade-long U.S. battle against terrorism in the country's south.

The U.S.-backed Philippine police commando raid on Jan. 25 reportedly killed long-wanted Malaysian militant Zulkifli Bin Hir in the marshy outskirts of Mamasapano town. A month later, the American military deactivated an anti-terror task force that oversaw what has been seen as a relatively successful 13-year American battle against terrorism in the southern Philippines.

A smaller U.S. military contingent remains in the restive region.

A Philippine Senate investigation report on the bloody anti-terror assault, which was made

public on Tuesday, provided details on the extent of America's behind-the-scenes involvement in the raid, including how six U.S. personnel joined a battle-monitoring post manned by Filipino police generals. The Americans provided intelligence, combat training, maps, equipment and surveillance that could be viewed on TV sets, according to the report.

One of the Americans reportedly ordered a military general at one point to fire artillery to support the embattled commandos but the Filipino commander refused to do so in disgust, said the report, without identifying the American or his unit.

"Do not dictate to me what to do. I am the commander here!" the Senate report quoted the general, identified as Philippine army Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pan-gilinan, as saying.

The U.S. Embassy did not

immediately comment on the Senate report, which said there was a need to review defense ties between the Philippines and its treaty ally, the United States, including their alliance in the battle against terrorism.

"Are there any consequences to working with the United States in pursuing its global war on terror?" the report asked. "Obviously, in the Mamasapano operation, the consequence of that mission ... was the death of a large number of Filipino soldiers and civilians."

U.S. forces are prohibited from local combat under the constitution in this former American colony. There has been no evidence that the Americans violated the terms of their presence, including in their involvement in the top-secret police assault, under a security pact that allows U.S. forces to train, advise and assist Filipino forces battling al-Qaida-linked militants.

Myanmar 'midnight inspections' show military still powerful

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The knock at the door of her family's home came without warning in the dead of night, just as it always did during Myanmar's long era of military rule.

Outside, a group of government officials announced they had come to verify who was living there, citing a law that empowers the state to enter private homes any time they wish. When the woman opened the door, they hauled her son away.

Such intrusions, known here as "midnight inspections," have declined dramatically since Myanmar's army ceded some power in 2011 and opened the country as never before. But the law that facilitates them is still on the books and being employed to suppress dissent. It's just one facet of the

massive power the military continues to wield here despite the country's much-touted transition from junta rule.

"They knocked on the door saying they needed to conduct a midnight inspection, but when we opened it, they took my son," the distraught mother said of the 1 a.m. visit last week. The woman spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared for her safety and that of her son.

Several of those detained recently had been deemed sympathetic to students whose protests against a new education law were brutally crushed by police this month. The night the woman's son was taken into custody, The Associated Press documented three other inspections that ended with student activists

being detained.

The legislation allowing "midnight inspections," known as the "Ward or Village Tract Administration Law," has been on Myanmar's books for nearly a century, since British colonial times. It was adopted by successive military juntas, which used it to monitor political opponents and restricting their movements, helping smother pro-democracy uprisings in 1988 and 2007.

The law requires families to obtain permission from the state to host guests in their own homes, in some cases every three days, regardless of how long the visitors are staying. People who rent their homes are also considered "guests," as are squatters who have built dwellings on land they don't own.

lier that five Japanese were among the 19 victims, but an unnamed Japanese official said that after checking the report, Japan found that some of the names were overlapping, according to Japanese broadcaster NHK. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the three deaths and three injured to reporters. He strongly condemned the attack, saying that "terrorism cannot be tolerated under any circumstances."

Thai court says ex-premier to stand trial over rice program

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's top court announced Thursday that former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will stand trial for negligence related to a rice subsidy program overseen by her ousted government that lost billions of dollars, a move likely to deepen the long-running political crisis in the military-ruled nation. Supreme Court judge Weerapol Tangsuwan said that a nine-member judicial panel studied documents submitted by prosecutors from the Attorney General's office last month and found the case was within the court's jurisdiction. The case is expected to begin May 19.

Japan investigates death threats to US Ambassador Kennedy

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police are investigating phone calls threatening to kill U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and another American envoy, authorities said Wednesday. The calls to the U.S. Embassy targeted Kennedy and Alfred Magleby, the U.S. consul general on the southern island of Okinawa, according to an Okinawa police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on an investigation by Tokyo authorities. Kennedy, the daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy, arrived in Tokyo in November 2013 as the first woman to serve as U.S. ambassador to Japan. She was appointed by President Barack Obama after helping with his re-election campaign.

Japan confirms deaths of 3 nationals in Tunisia attack

TOKYO (AP)—Three Japanese were killed, and three others injured, in the militant attack on tourists in Tunisia, the Japanese government said Thursday. The Tunisian prime minister said ear-

World

Tunisia attack capital 19; 2 gunmen slain

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Foreign tourists scrambled in panic Wednesday after militants stormed a museum in Tunisia's capital and killed 19 people, "shooting at anything that moved," a witness said.

Two gunmen were slain by security forces following the deadliest attack on civilians in the North African country in 13 years, and the president said the young democracy was embroiled in a war with terror.

The militants, who wore mil-

itary-style uniforms and wielded assault rifles, burst from a vehicle and began gunning down tourists climbing out of buses at the National Bardo Museum. The attackers then charged inside to take hostages before being killed in a firefight with security forces.

Authorities launched a manhunt for two or three accomplices in the attack. Prime Minister Habib Essid said the two Tunisian gunmen killed 17 tourists—five from Japan,

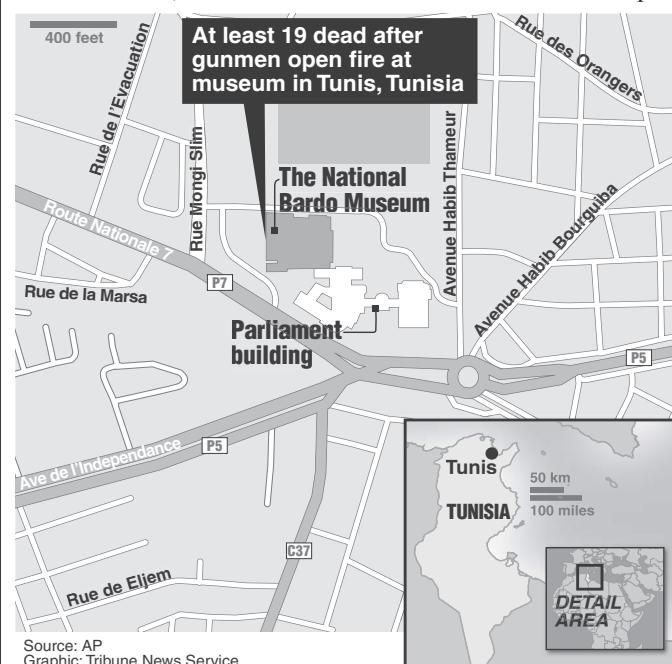
four from Italy, two from Colombia, two from Spain, and one each from Australia, Poland and France. The nationality of one dead foreigner was not released. Essid said two Tunisian nationals also were killed by the militants.

At least 44 people were wounded, including tourists from Italy, France, Japan, South Africa, Poland, Belgium and Russia, according to Essid and doctors from Tunis' Charles Nicolle.

"I want the people of Tunisia to understand firstly and lastly that we are in a war with terror, and these savage minority groups will not frighten us," said newly elected President Beji Caid Essebsi in an evening address to the nation. "The fight against them will continue until they are exterminated."

Tunisians overthrew their dictator in 2011 and kicked off the Arab Spring that spread across the region. While the uprising built a new democracy, the country has also struggled with economic problems and attacks by extremists.

Essid identified the slain gunmen as Yassine Laabidi and Hatem Khachnaoui.



Netanyahu victory leaves damage in wake

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strong showing in national elections this week has come with a price: He has managed to antagonize friends and foes alike with hard-line rhetoric on the campaign trail.

While the tough talk gave Netanyahu a last-minute boost in the polls, the Israeli leader could now face a difficult task convincing an already skeptical world that he is serious about reaching peace with his Arab neighbors—particularly if, as expected, he forms a new government comprised of religious and nationalistic parties.

Trailing in opinion polls, Netanyahu took a sharp turn to the right in the final days of the campaign to shore up support among his core nationalistic constituency.

He vowed to increase settlement construction in east Jerusalem, the Palestinians' would-be capital, and rejected the idea of a Palestinian state in current conditions—putting him at odds with U.S. and European positions and reversing his own policy of the past six years.

In a last-ditch attempt to spur his supporters to the polls Tuesday, he warned that Arab citizens were voting "in

Street dogs find homes in venerable Cuban institutions

HAVANA (AP)—Old Havana's Museum of Metalwork is home to soaring colonial archways, floors of gleaming artworks and five of the world's luckiest street dogs.

In the heat of the day, Vladimir, Canela, Aparicio, Leon and Carinosa sprawl in the grand entrance of the centuries-old stone building. At night, the animals patrol the streets with local police or sleep under the museum's grand stairway. Each wears a collar with a tattered card bearing its name, photo and the words "I live in the Museum of Metalwork."

More than a dozen state in-

situations ranging from Cuba's Central Bank to a public toilet have taken street dogs under their wings in recent years, assigning them official IDs and housing and granting them year-round medical care and protection from the city dogcatcher, animal protection officials say.

"I don't like dogs but I've really developed a soft spot in my heart for them," said Yarisbel Perez, a guard at a historic building overlooking Old Havana's Plaza Vieja, where two sets of guards share custody of P9 and Nina, the former named after a city bus line.

Despite the trappings of state

protection, the roughly two dozen former street dogs enjoy, at most, a quasi-official status, conveyed by the frequently thin pretext that they are working security. Cuban law banning animals from workplaces contains an exemption for guard dogs and this legal cover for the ex-strays was bolstered when a dog at a government office in eastern Havana awakened a guard one night by barking when she heard trying to remove air conditioners from the windows, said Nora Garcia, president of the Cuban Association for the Protection of Plants and Animals.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan investigates death threats to US Ambassador Kennedy

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese police are investigating phone calls threatening to kill U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and another American envoy, authorities said Wednesday. The calls to the U.S. Embassy targeted Kennedy and Alfred Magleby, the U.S. consul general on the southern island of Okinawa, according to an Okinawa police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on an investigation by Tokyo authorities. Kennedy, the daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy, arrived in Tokyo in November 2013 as the first woman to serve as U.S. ambassador to Japan. She was appointed by President Barack Obama after helping with his re-election campaign.

Japan confirms deaths of 3 nationals in Tunisia attack

TOKYO (AP)—Three Japanese were killed, and three others injured, in the militant attack on tourists in Tunisia, the Japanese government said Thursday. The Tunisian prime minister said ear-

Off The Wall

Nevada bill would allow sick pets to use medical marijuana

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—Pets might soon be able to use pot under a bill introduced Tuesday in the Nevada Legislature.

Democratic Sen. Tick Segerblom is sponsoring the measure that would allow animal owners to get marijuana for their pet if a veterinarian certifies the animal has an illness that might be alleviated by the drug.

Segerblom said he's concerned that some animals might have adverse reactions, but "you don't know until you try," he said.

Some veterinarians who have given cannabis to sick and dying pets say it has relieved their symptoms, although the substance hasn't been proven as a painkiller for animals.

Los Angeles veterinarian Doug Kramer told The Associated Press in 2013 that pot helped ease his Siberian husky's pain during her final weeks, after she had surgery to remove tumors. Kramer said cannabis helped his dog, Nikita, gain weight and live an extra six weeks before she was euthanized.

"I grew tired of euthanizing pets when I wasn't doing everything I could to make their lives better," Kramer told the AP. "I felt like I was letting them down."



In this May 30, 2013, file photo, Companion Cannabis, by Holistic Therapeutics, a Marijuana medicinal tincture for dogs and cats is displayed at La Brea Compassionate Caregivers, a medical marijuana dispensary in Los Angeles.

The proposal is in its earliest stages and faces several legislative hurdles before it could become law. The pot-for-pets provision of SB372 is part of a larger bill that would overhaul the state's medical marijuana law, removing penalties for drivers who have marijuana in their blood and requiring training for pot-shop owners.

Segerblom said he added the provision after being approached by a constituent.

Sen. Mark Manendo, a fel-

low Democrat and animal rights advocate, said he hadn't heard of the practice of giving marijuana to animals and is concerned about its safety.

"That gives me pause," he said. "Alcohol is bad, chocolate is bad for dogs."

His own dog died in his arms at age 15, and the experience was difficult and emotional, he said.

But "I don't know if I would've given him marijuana," Manendo said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NY county gets 2nd \$100M-plus lottery winner in 3 months

MONTICELLO, N.Y. (AP)—An upstate New York county of 76,000 people has gotten its second \$100 million-plus Mega Millions jackpot winner in three months. Real estate agent Tammy Pratt of South Fallsburg in Sullivan County was introduced Wednesday as the sole winner of the \$126 million Mega Millions jackpot drawn Feb. 27. Pratt was between real estate appointments when she stopped for gas. She bought \$4 worth of tickets instead of her usual \$1 when she noticed the jackpot for the upcoming drawing had topped \$100 million. Lottery officials say the odds of hitting that jackpot were 1 in 258 million. In January, a retired school principal from Wurtsboro in Sullivan County was announced as the sole winner of a \$326 million Mega Millions jackpot drawn in November.

ing home after ending up nearly 2,000 miles away in Southern California. Kevin the orange tabby is leaving Palm Springs on Wednesday after disappearing from Anderson, South Carolina, in 2013. John Welsh of Riverside County Animal Services says the cat turned up in early March inside a U-Haul trailer a woman had driven across the country. During a routine inspection, the inspector heard meowing. The driver says she didn't know Kevin was inside. The dehydrated cat was taken to a shelter. His microchip helped track down owner Cheryl Walls, who jokes that Kevin has seen more of the country than her.

Trendy California creation: Pop Tart doughnut

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A Southern California doughnut shop has come up with yet another guilty pleasure gone viral: a gigantic doughnut stuffed with a Pop Tart filling. Donut Bar, with outlets in Fountain Valley and San Diego, calls the 1-pound creation the "Big Poppa Tart Donut." It's appeared on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," "The Steve Harvey Show," BuzzFeed

and TV news. The 2-inch-thick square is stuffed with strawberry jam and a strawberry Pop Tart, then topped with diced Pop Tart, sprinkles and drizzled jam. Donut Bar sells about 150 of the doughnuts daily, at \$4 each.

The neighbor with no clothes on; police say no law broken

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A Charlotte man who stands at his front door naked is upsetting his neighbors, but police say he is not doing anything illegal. WBTV reports people in the north Charlotte neighborhood called police Friday to lodge the latest of what officials say are four complaints so far this year.

Neighbors say the man stands naked at his door several times a week, and he has been doing it for years. They have taken pictures and video and hope the homeowners association to file some type of nuisance complaint. A spokeswoman for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department says while the man may be annoying the neighborhood, his actions don't rise to the level of bringing charges because he's on his own property.

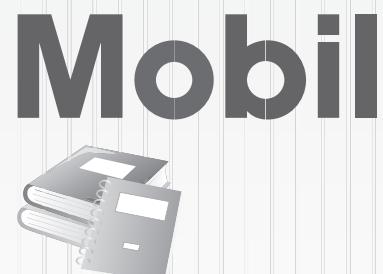
Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Partners in Education

Would like to acknowledge faithful sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the world's most up-to-date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



- Oleai Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- W.S.R. Elementary School
- G.T.C. Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Vicente School
- Mouth Carmel School
- Seventh Day School

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

- Dandan Elementary School
- G.T.C. Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Southern High School
- W.S.R. Elementary School
- Tanapag Middle School
- Kagman Elementary School

GOLD SPONSORS



Pharmacy and Wellness Center

- Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Southern High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Kagman High School



- Hopwood Jr. High School
- Marianas High School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Tanapag Middle School

SILVER SPONSORS



BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

- Mount Carmel School
- Garapan Elementary School
- San Antonio Middle School
- Oleai Elementary School

CO-SPONSORS



Life in Motion

- Saipan Southern High School

Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce

- W.S.R. Elementary School

SBR ENTERPRISES



- Green Meadow School

- Seventh Day Adventist School



- Grace Christian Academy

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Science & Technology

The latest way to pay someone from your phone: Facebook

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook's Messenger app will soon let you send your friends money, the latest in a crowded field of services aimed at an increasingly wireless and cashless generation.

Services including PayPal, its Venmo unit and the disappearing-photo app Snapchat let you beam money to friends and family using smartphones linked to bank accounts or credit cards.

Facebook's entry, announced Tuesday, is free, works with debit cards and is available on Apple and Android mobile devices and on desktop computers.

The world's largest social network will process the payments and emphasized the service's security features.

Facebook will likely expand internationally after the service becomes available to U.S. users over the coming months.

To send money, Messenger users can tap a new "\$" icon that's next to the buttons that let you send photos, stickers or a thumbs up sign. Then, enter the amount you want to send, tap "pay" on the top right corner and enter your debit card number. To receive money for the first time, enter the card number.

Once you add your card number, you can create a pin code that you will need to enter the next time you want to send

money. On Apple devices that have Touch ID, you can enable this instead and authorize transactions using your fingerprint.

To help allay concerns about security, Facebook noted that it handles more than a million payments transactions on its site

every day for its advertisers and game players.

Its payments systems are stored separately from other

parts of the Facebook network and receive additional monitoring and control, the company said in a blog post Tuesday.

phones with minor blemishes.

The offer doesn't cover phones that are lost or stolen, so customers might still need insurance through their wireless carriers. Insurance also would cover damage after HTC's 12-month coverage period.

Smashed your HTC One? No problem, they'll replace

NEW YORK (AP)—Cracked your screen or dropped your phone in the toilet? No problem, if you buy HTC's new One smartphone.

Starting next month when new phones go on sale, HTC will replace damaged phones free of charge during its normal 12-month warranty period—no questions asked. The offer expands on HTC Corp.'s current pledge to replace cracked screens for the first six months. HTC is trying to distinguish itself from Apple, Samsung and other smaller Android phone makers with this offer. Despite good reviews, HTC wasn't on IDC's or Gartner's lists of top five smartphone makers in 2014.

in protective cases. He said the program also will give parents peace of mind when handing phones to toddlers to keep them entertained.

"We see a big opportunity because that smartphone is the one thing you'll take everywhere," he said. "It's prone to accidents."

Like last year's version, the new HTC One model has a metal design and polished finish. The camera is improved and now takes shots at 20 megapixels, on par with other leading Android phones. The HTC One's screen remains 5 inches diagonally. The phones will start going on sale in the U.S. in early April, at prices that have yet to be announced.

The replacement program, called Uh Oh Protection, will begin when the new phones go on sale. Last year's models will be eligible if they are purchased on that date or later. It's available in the U.S. only.

HTC won't charge deduct-

ibles or other fees, but will replace a phone only once. Customers will call a toll-free number to have a replacement phone shipped and then have 30 days to mail back the damaged phone.

Customers who don't replace their phones will get \$100 off their next HTC One. Because of that, Mackenzie expects some customers will still keep

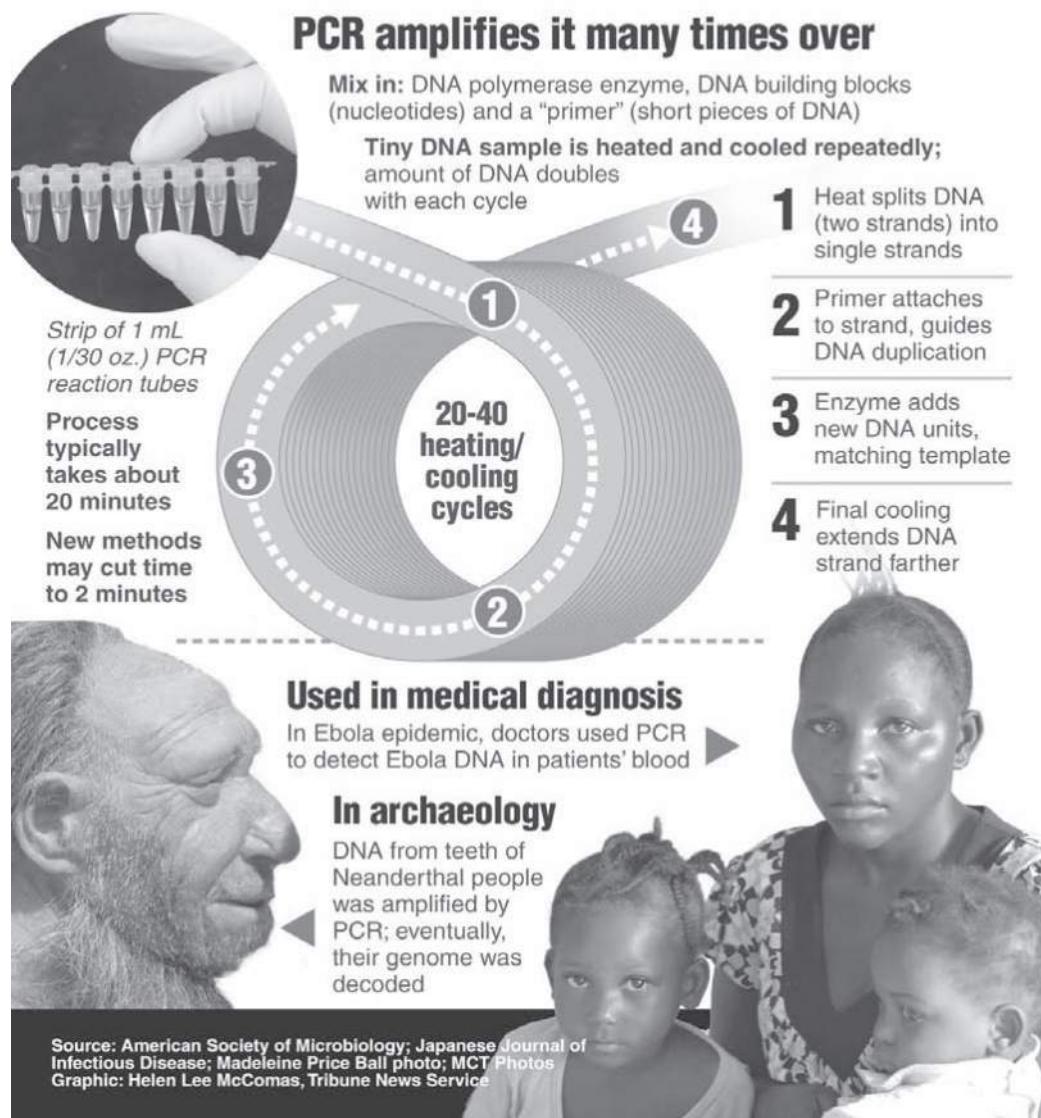
AP
This product image provided by HTC shows front and rear views of the HTC One M9 smartphone.



Science Matters

How to read a tiny sample of DNA

The DNA in the root of a single hair can be analyzed to determine whose hair it is. The laboratory uses a powerful process called polymerase chain reaction (PCR).



TECH Q & A

How small organizations can make big backups

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I coordinate the St. Paul Classic, a large bike tour in St. Paul, Minn., and we are deciding how to back up our mailing list of 42,000 names and addresses. We now save this information in cloud storage and on a couple of archival CD disks, and it's been suggested we also make a printout. What's the best way to safely store this vital information?—Richard Arey, St. Paul, Minn.

A: Using cloud storage is fine, but I would never depend on it exclusively because cloud providers can be hacked, lose files or go out of business. In addition to the cloud, you should back up the information locally in two ways, on an external hard drive and on a CD disk or flash drive. These local backups should be kept at different locations in case of fire, theft or other disaster. You should update the backups as often as the list undergoes significant changes.

In addition, remember that technology for storing data is constantly changing, which can create compatibility issues. New computers may switch

data storage formats, storage media capacities or storage speeds (for example, USB 2.0 vs. the faster USB 3.0). At some point, older storage technology is no longer supported (for example, the floppy disk), so keep up to date.

Printouts are a valuable emergency backup, but retyping 42,000 entries from a printed document isn't practical. You'd need an "optical character recognition" scanner and software.

Q: You suggested using Windows Disk Check to test for disk drive problems (see tinyurl.com/pjr4kz5). But when I restart my Windows 7 PC, the Disk Check program is canceled before it can start. What's wrong?—Jack Botterbusch, Jacksonville, Fla.

A: Disk Check may be prevented from running because of a setting in the PC's Registry, a database of Windows operating rules. You can modify the Registry settings to correct this. Go to Start and type "regedit" in the search box. Be careful because making a mistake in the Registry can cause other PC

problems. Another possibility is that the "autochk.exe" file that runs Disk Check is corrupted. For details on fixing both problems, see tinyurl.com/kue2hdg.

Q: I have several old desktop computers that I'd like to dispose of, but first I'd like to wipe the hard drives clean. Is there an easy way to do that?—George Gaffer, Tucson, Ariz.

A: Yes, there are many "data destruction" programs that will permanently erase a hard drive, and you can find a list of free ones at tinyurl.com/7zsjtbm. The destruction process is important because data the computer has "deleted" actually remains hidden on the hard disk until later overwritten by new information. That hidden data can be viewed by anyone using a file recovery program. Destruction programs overwrite all hard drive data, making it unrecoverable.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Stars sent to Tower of London for 'Game of Thrones' premiere

LONDON (AP)—The fifth season of "Game of Thrones" had its premiere Wednesday at the Tower of London, an atmospheric landmark whose history is like the show: tangled, royal and bloody.

The series' stars walked a red carpet at the 1,000-year-old fortress, a former palace and prison where traitors were once tortured and executed.

"Just think that 200 years ago we'd be coming here to get our heads chopped off ... (not) watch the telly," said Liam Cunningham, who plays the knight Davos Seaworth.

The cast were sworn to secrecy about plot twists in the series, a phenomenon that has injected sex, blood and plots of

Shakespearean complexity into fantasy television.

But Michael McElhatton, who plays Roose Bolton, promised "shocks" for fans of George R.R. Martin's books, on which the series is based.

Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, who plays Jaime Lannister, added that "there will be major surprises. We enter the endgame now."

And fan favorite Kit Harrington said big changes were ahead for his character, Jon Snow.

"It's kind of about him growing up, being a politician, being a commander," Harrington said.

"The scripts are challenging and wonderful and controversial. It's going to be so good."

Season five premieres April 12 on HBO.



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

Gaye's family attempts to stop 'Blurred Lines' distribution

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marvin Gaye's family wants to put a stop to "Blurred Lines."

Gaye's children filed an injunction in court Tuesday to prevent the copying, distributing and performing of the hit song featuring Pharrell, Robin Thicke and T.I.

Pharrell and Thicke were ordered to pay nearly \$7.4 million to three of Gaye's children after a jury determined last week that the performers copied elements of the R&B icon's 1977 hit "Got to Give It Up."

Gaye's family also sought Tuesday to amend the verdict to include rapper T.I., whose real name is Clifford Joseph Harris Jr., as well as labels Universal Music, Interscope Records and Star Trak Entertainment.

The injunction against

"Blurred Lines" could give Gaye's family leverage to negotiate for royalties and other concessions, such as songwriting credits.

"With the digital age upon us, the threat of greater infringement looms for every artist," the family said in a statement released Wednesday. "It is our wish that our dad's legacy, and all great music, past, present, and future, be enjoyed and protected, with the knowledge that adhering to copyright standards assures our musical treasures will always be valued."

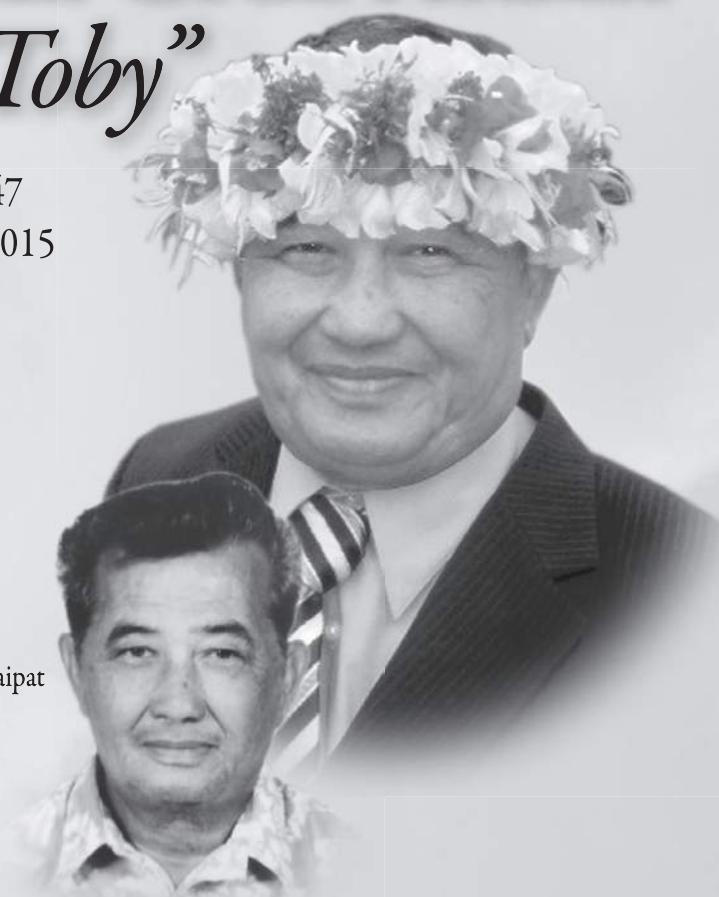
"Blurred Lines" was the biggest hit of 2013. It sold more than 7 million tracks in the United States, topped the pop charts for months and earned two Grammy Award nominations.

In Remembrance of †Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan "Toby"

Was born to life on February 09, 1947
and called to Eternal Life on March 16, 2015

In his Eternal life he now peacefully joins his:

Father:	†Lucio Castro Aldan
Mother:	†Francisca Ogo Dela Cruz Aldan
Brothers:	†Alejandro DLC. Aldan †Francisco DLC Aldan
Sisters:	†Maria Aldan Taitano †Paulina Aldan Sablan †Carina DLC. Aldan †Antoinetta Aldan Castro
Father-in-law:	†Mariano Borja Kaipat
Mother-in-Law:	†Guadalupe Matagolai Litulumar Kaipat
Brothers-In-Law:	†Antonio L. Kaipat †Francisco L. Kaipat †Daniel L. Kaipat †Daniel P. Castro †Francisco C. Ada
Sisters-in-law:	†Joaquina K. Ada †Maria L. Kaipat †Aurora L. Kaipat †Juliana S. Kaipat
Daughter:	†Joylina Lynn Kaipat Aldan



Brothers & Sisters-In-law: †Joaquina/†Francisco Ada & Children
†Antonio/ Celina Kaipat & Children
†Francisco/ Jacinta Kaipat & Children
Diego/†Damiana Kaipat & Children
Isabel/ Dennis Davis & Children
Jose/Mariann Kaipat & Children
Ricardo/Merselyn Kaipat & Children
Emery/ Elizabeth Kaipat & Children
†Juliana Saures Kaipat & Children
Damiana O. Kaipat

God Children: Jackson Davis
Lilikoi Muusers-Litulumar
Jovita Fitipol
Ryan Kaipat
Dwayne Davis
Henry William
Kayla Kaipat
Juan Limes
John Wayne Techur
Angel Taman
Alex T'kel
Dianna Matagolai
Roma Romolor
Lucu Techur
Magdalena Topulei
Leibiyoor Kaipat
Steven Castro
Christopher Castro
Gorbachif Mendiola
Knoxs T'kel
Juan Peilisaman

Best Friends:

Brothers & Sisters: Vicente/Antonia Aldan & Children
†Maria/Vicente Taitano & Children
†Paulina Sablan & Children
†Antoinetta/Pete Castro & Children
Victoria/†Daniel Castro & Children
Angelica/Ramon Sablan & Children
†Francisco/Anita Aldan & Children
John/ Lucy Aldan & Children

Daily mass of intention is being offered at 6:00am in Kristo Rai Church.

Nightly Rosary is being prayed at his family's residence in Garapan, Pagan Ville at 8:00pm. Beginning March 21, the nightly rosary will be moved to 7:00pm.

Remains will leave CHCC at 4pm on March 23rd and will be escorted to his family's residence in Garapan, Pagan Ville for viewing and wake services.

On Tuesday, March 24th his remains will depart his residence at 9am and will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church for Memorial service. Mass of Christian Burial will commence at 11:00am.

Interment services will follow at the Tanapag Public Cemetery, where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Clotilde Kaipat Aldan, Children and Family

Pharrell Williams chosen as fashion icon of the year

NEW YORK (AP)—Pharrell Williams, fond of high hats and fabulous shoes, will be honored as a fashion icon by the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

The singer, songwriter and record producer was singled out for the Fashion Icon Award, to be bestowed June 1 at Lincoln Center, as somebody whose individual style has made a signif-

icant impact on popular culture on an international scale.

"If cool was a person, it would be Pharrell, not just for his looks and sense of style but for his kindness and openness. I cannot imagine anyone not seduced by him," said Diane von Furstenberg, president of the CFDA, in a statement released Wednesday.

Last year's recipient was Ri-

hanna, who wore a see-through dress to collect her award. Johnny Depp, Lady Gaga, Iman, Kate Moss and Nicole Kidman are among past winners.

In addition to music, Pharrell co-founded the clothing brands Billionaire Boys Club and Ice Cream Footwear. He has a New York City boutique and has co-designed jewelry and eyeglasses for Louis Vuitton.

Paula Patton, Robin Thicke granted divorce in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paula Patton and Robin Thicke are another step closer to divorce.



The actress from "Precious" and "2 Guns" was granted a divorce Tuesday from the

"Blurred Lines" singer in Los Angeles. Their legal split will go into effect April 14.

The 39-year-old actress and 38-year-old singer announced they were separating last year after nine years of marriage. They have a 4-year-old son.

Patton was the inspiration behind much of Thicke's music and appeared in some of his videos.

Thicke promoted his latest album, "Paula," last summer with several public appearances accompanied by reconciliation pleas.

In this Feb. 24, 2013 file photo, Paula Patton and Robin Thicke arrive at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscar Viewing and After Party at the Sunset Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif.

Liza Minnelli enters rehab, 'making excellent progress'

NEW YORK (AP)—Liza Minnelli has checked herself in rehab and is making "excellent progress," her representative says.

Minnelli spokesman Scott Gorinstein said Wednesday night, "Minnelli has valiantly battled substance abuse over the years and whenever she has needed to seek treatment she has done so. She is currently making excellent

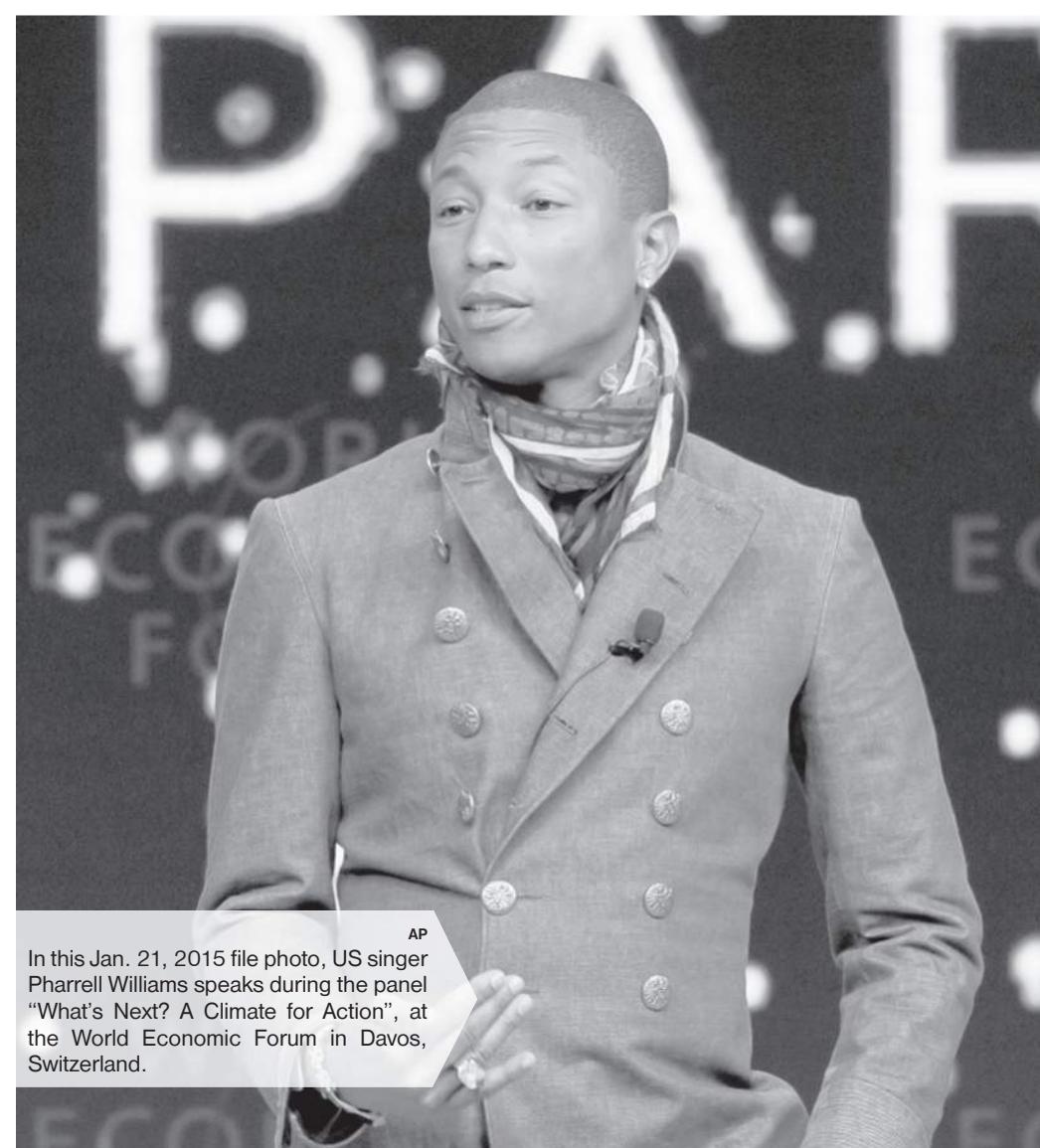
progress at an undisclosed facility."

In September, the legendary entertainer underwent back surgery to help heal an injury that prevented her from performing most of the year or attending the funeral of Joan Rivers in New York.



The 69-year-old entertainer, who has had alcohol and drug addictions, is one of the few artists to win an Oscar, a Tony, an Emmy and a Grammy. Perhaps her greatest role was as cabaret singer Sally Bowles in the film version of "Cabaret."

Minnelli



AP
In this Jan. 21, 2015 file photo, US singer Pharrell Williams speaks during the panel "What's Next? A Climate for Action", at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Prince Harry to join wounded troops on British trek

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry is leaving the army, but he's not giving up his work with wounded troops.

The prince says he plans to join service members for part of a 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) trek around Britain.

The prince on Wednesday

met four men and a woman planning the Walk of Britain, and announced he would be joining them for a small part of the journey later this year.

The trek is organized by Walking with the Wounded, a charity that helps injured veterans move into civilian life.

Harry, who is fourth in line to the throne, will leave the British Army in June after a 10-year career that included two stints in Afghanistan.

Harry has previously joined troops on Walking with the Wounded treks to the North and South Poles.

Next Spielberg film 1st in decades without score by Williams

NEW YORK (AP)—The next Steven Spielberg will be missing a familiar sound: A score by John Williams.

For the first time in three decades, a Spielberg-directed film won't be scored by Williams. DreamWorks Pictures announced Wednesday that Spielberg's upcoming Cold War

thriller "Bridge of Spies" will be scored by Thomas Newman.

Williams had previously been signed on to the film, but is departing, DreamWorks said, because of a minor health issue that has since been corrected. The last feature film Spielberg made without Williams was 1985's "The Color

Purple," which Quincy Jones scored.

Williams will still score Spielberg's following film, the Roald Dahl adaption "The BFG."

"Bridge of Spies," to be re-

lease October 16, stars Tom Hanks as a Brooklyn lawyer

tasked to negotiate the release

of a captured pilot.

Casual remark cuts deeper than what friend intended

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Tina," was very hurt by a friend recently. Her friend "Sally" called her "cheap" during a conversation ("she's cheap like you"). Sally didn't intend it to be hurtful, just an illustration—but my wife is very upset about it.

We use coupons when we grocery shop or dine out; we also watch our thermostats, recycle, etc. On the other hand, we have sent our children to university without loans, our mortgage is paid off, we have traveled extensively and our net worth is north of a million dollars with no debt. How do I make Tina realize that Sally's comment should not upset her so?

THRIFTY IN TEXAS

DEAR THRIFTY: What happened was unfortunate because the problem may be that Sally simply chose the wrong word. What she probably meant was that your wife is frugal. The difference between "frugal" and "cheap" is that being frugal is a VIRTUE. Because Sally hurt your wife's feelings, Tina needs to tell her how it made her feel so Sally can apologize to her before it causes a permanent rift.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teenage girl who has a fantastic life, a loving family, great grades in school and a nice house. I have a problem that seems to be taking over my life: I'm very anxious.

At first, it seemed I was just a worrywart, but lately, it's been

nuts. I'm terrified someone in my family is going to die and I worry obsessively over it. I try to think it's going to be all right, but my anxiety just overtakes me.

I'm terrified of death and that my parents or my siblings will die tomorrow. I don't know who to tell. My parents freak out over the slightest thing. Please help me.

WORRYWART IN ARIZONA

DEAR WORRYWART: Many young people harbor the same fear you have. But because you say your parents tend to "freak out" at the slightest thing, I can't help but wonder if a tendency toward high anxiety runs in your family.

Assuming that your family members are in good health, your preoccupation with the idea they might suddenly die should be discussed with a licensed psychotherapist. Ideally, you should tell your parents what's going on, but if you're afraid to talk to them and ask for help, then speak to a counselor at school so the counselor can bring it to their attention. Because this is troubling you to the extent that you have written to me, please don't procrastinate.

DEAR ABBY: How do you politely refuse to hug or shake someone's hand because of a medical issue that lowers your resistance to infection?

I had a stem cell transplant 18 months ago because of a recurrence of Hodgkin's lymphoma. I'm now on a drug that keeps my

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

white blood count low. If I get a fever, I could end up in the hospital. I have been in remission for over a year and look healthy.

I don't really care to get into a long conversation about my experience, but I don't want to put myself at risk. How should I handle this without appearing rude?

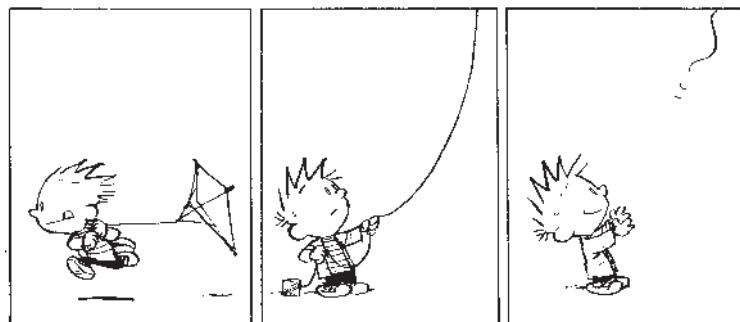
HOLDING BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HOLDING: Not extending your hand should send the message. However, if you are pressed, tell a short version of the truth, which would be, "I can't do that because I have a medical condition that prevents close contact."

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

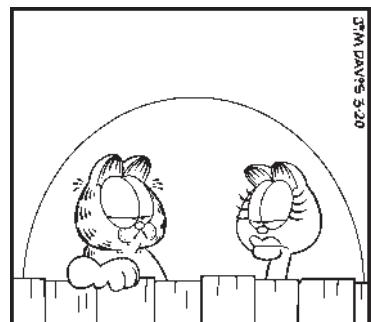
Calvin and Hobbes



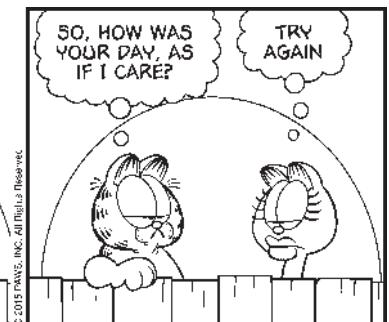
By Bill Waterson



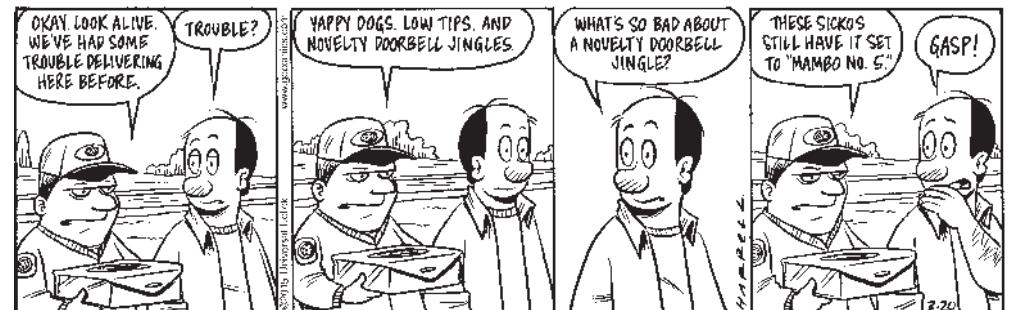
Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

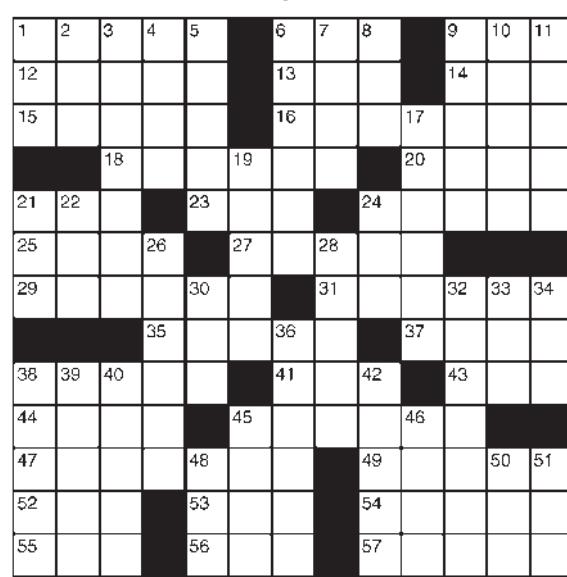


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	43	S.A.	2	Sweet	22	Onassis,
1 Washer	nation	44	Dumbo's	potato	to	pals
phase	"wings"	45	For now	3 Mountain-	24	Commotion
6 Yon	46	47	Snake	eer	26	Bias
maiden	48	handler?	49	block	against	against
9 Squabble	50	49	River	5 Wear	the	the
12 Less	51	50	bend	down	elderly	elderly
infirm	52	52	Matter-	6 Talks	28	Preamble
13 Pick a	53	53	horn,	back to	30	Mork's
target	54	54	for one	7 Sword	home	home
14 Will Smith	55	55	55	handle	planet	planet
biopic role	Allow	Allow	Allow	8 Flightless	32	Room
15 Pedro's	Compre-	Compre-	Compre-	bird	33	— the
pal	hended	hended	hended	9 Shul	ramparts	ramparts
16 Sleep	56	56	56	VIP
18 Unassum-	La Scala	La Scala	La Scala	10 Bread	34	“Family
ing	show	show	show	spreads	35	Guy”
20 Reed	57	57	57	11 Mess	daughter	daughter
instrument	“Two	“Two	“Two	behind a	36	Snow-
21 “CSI”	Women”	Women”	Women”	desk	man’s	man’s
workplace	Oscar	Oscar	Oscar	17 Second	nose	nose
23 Preceding	winner	winner	winner	19 Obliterate	38	Calyx
24 Off				21 Rest-	39	Actress
somehow				room,	40	Berry
25 Neighbor-	1	Half a	1	for	41	Blow
hood	dance?	dance?	dance?	short	one’s	one’s
27 Away					42	Bar
from					seat	seat
others					45	Mexican
29 Late					46	money
August					47	Big fair,
births					48	briefly
31 Sarge,					49	Glitch
e.g.					50	Tramcar
35 Upright					51	load
37 Quaker						51
pronoun						Ashy
38 Arab						
bigwig						
41 —						
Poetica”						

Yesterday's answer 3-20



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Chester Bennington, 39; Holly Hunter, 57; Spike Lee, 58; William Hurt, 65.

Happy Birthday: There is no time to waste on trivial matters. Try to address the problems you may be having with anyone who is trying to stand in your way. Use your intuition to help you maneuver your way through the ups and downs brought on by circumstances beyond your control. Stay focused and don't stop until you reach your destination. Your numbers are 3, 11, 21, 29, 32, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Opportunities to show off your talents will lead to sudden advancement. Your intuition will be on target, allowing you the chance to make quick decisions and outsmart any competition you encounter. Don't be afraid to start something new. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your health will suffer if you are overindulgent or try to take on too much. Don't overreact to the changes that are happening around you. Your reluctance to accept such alterations will be viewed as incompetence. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't exaggerate, or you will end up being blamed for not fulfilling a promise. Social events will lead to a new connection that can bring about a substantial change regarding your professional goals. Carelessness can result in a mishap or injury. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't get involved in the personal affairs of colleagues. Keep your business and personal lives separate. You'll be blamed for taking sides

or interfering. Stick close to home and engage in creative endeavors that can help you prosper. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Generosity is good, but not if your friends take advantage of you. Don't overextend yourself while trying to impress others. Financial problems will lead to poor credit and a loss of respect. You can't buy love. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be very careful when handling a situation with your loved one or someone putting demands on you. Consider how you can make your assets grow. Cutting corners and conservative investments will pay off. Don't believe everything you hear. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put more into what you have to offer and you will get higher returns. It's up to you to set a high standard and strive to reach it. Spend time getting back into shape. Shopping will tempt you, but will also lead to debt. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pleasure trips will be costly. Spending more time on home-improvement projects will bring better results, especially if you do the work yourself. Your ability to find solutions will aid you in getting the approval you require to follow your dreams. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with is likely to cause a problem. Don't give in to emotional blackmail or to anyone trying to curtail your freedom. Lay down some ground rules before the situation spins out of control. Honesty is the best policy. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't get involved in the personal affairs of colleagues. Keep your business and personal lives separate. You'll be blamed for taking sides

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A last-minute change must not throw you off your game. Focus on what you want to do. Stick close to home and to the people you love. Venturing out will lead to delays and problems with authority figures. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Greater opportunities will come about from re-visiting a partnership or revisiting an old idea that was ahead of its time when you first wanted to put it into motion. Focus on the personal changes that will help boost your ego. Good fortune is in the stars. **★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romantic encounters must be monitored carefully. Don't let anyone put demands on you or keep you from doing the things you love to do. Make it clear that you are not going to be anyone's minion. Be prepared to walk away from a bad situation. **★★**

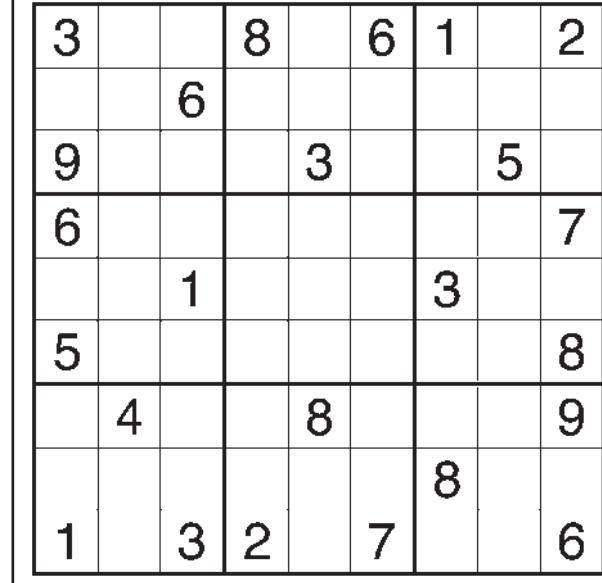
Birthday Baby: You are fastidious and original. You are a mover and a shaker.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

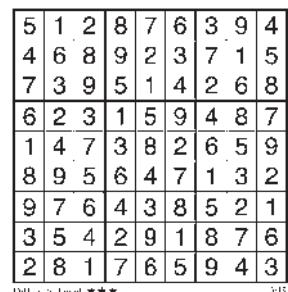
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★

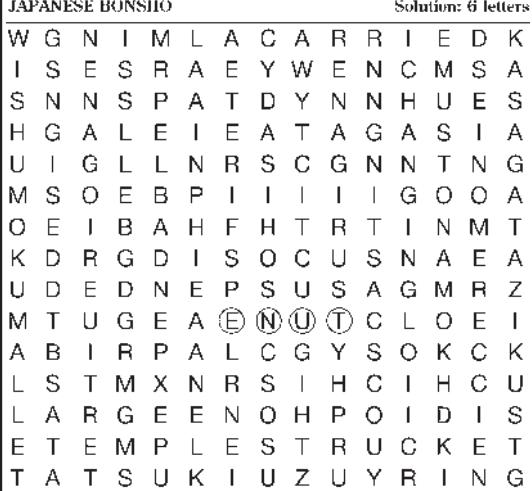
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters will spell the Wonderword.

JAPANESE BONSHO

Solution: 6 letters



© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 3/20

Bells, Buddhist, Calming, Carried, Casting, Ceremonies, Chiichi, Chinese, Designs, Expendable, Hanging, Idiophone, Kasagata, Koma No Tsume, Large, Mallet, New Years, Ogane, Outside, Percussion, Prayer, Ring, Rise, Rusty, Ryuza, Shumoku, Signals, Significance, Spiritual, Struck, Suspended, Taps, Tatsuki, Temples, Time, Trees, Tsukiza, Tsugane, Tune, Wish Yesterday's Answer: Quality

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Home is where the heart is

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	COMBO (PRINT)	(PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

ABODE



Find today's solution in classified section

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI

Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
\$0.85 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL

235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Wanted!

Stay in House Worker in the U.S.A.

Preferably Green Card or US Citizen

Salary: \$1,500

Please call at 233-2288

for more details.

WANTED

For Immediate Hire

H.E. OPERATOR

(w/ 5 years experience)

Apply in person at Conwood Products, Inc.

Chalan Laulau, Middle Road

WANTED TO BUY

Need Quick Cash? I am looking for a house or lot to buy in Garapan. (670) 484-4071 or (671) 687-5863.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Job Vacancy Announcement

2 Auto Mechanics

United Brothers Inc.
323-1328

ATOM'S CO., LTD.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

(1) Administrative Assistant

- Knowledgeable in processing federal and local licenses and work permits.
- Has a valid driver's license.
- Minimum 3 years work experience.

Please contact 233-8880

APARTMENTS FOR RENT



Fina Sisu Terraces

Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. \$250/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. \$350-\$550/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces

(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
\$600/month

Sunset View Terraces

(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
\$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*

(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. \$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
\$500/month

*Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:

- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

Please visit our website at
www.saipan-properties.com
Call for an appointment
235-6527/8.

LAND FOR LEASE

LOCATION: PAPAGO

1st LOT: 1,100 sqm

2nd LOT: 1,100 sqm

LOCATION: OBYAN

1st LOT: 2,195 sqm

2nd LOT: 8,177 sqm

For inquiry, call
Calistro I. Reyes
at **788-1256 or 235-9708**

Business for Sale

Owner of **SWIP Water Refilling Company** is selling the business to serious buyer.

If interested,
please contact
Ms. Lee at 483-8809



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Karidat has one vacant position for an **Executive Director**

Interested individuals may obtain a Job Application Form at our main office in Chalan Kanoa. Deadline to submit an application will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Sorry, but no phone calls please.

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper

CALL 235-NEWS

SAIPAN MARINE CORPORATION

Job Opportunity for Temporary Part-time Hire

- **MASTERS**
- **MARINE ENGINEERS**
- **A/Bs**
- **DECKHANDS**

Qualification:

1. Must have valid Philippine License and Qualification
2. Available to work immediately and on call status on Tugboat assignment

We are an equal opportunity employer and comply with all CNMI laws relevant to employment. All qualified candidates will receive serious consideration.

Please apply in person at the Saipan Marine Corporation office located at the Ground Floor CPA building in Puerto Rico. Telephone # (670) 322-7345 look for Michelle Hamilton.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION

OPENING DATE: March 06, 2015 CLOSING DATE: March 27, 2015 TIME: 4:30 PM

SALARY AT \$55,000.00 - \$60,000.00 UNGRADED
(Commensurate with education and experience)

“COMPTROLLER”

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Becky V. Manalo, Administrative Assistant at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to admin@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Best Sunshine International Ltd. under Imperial Pacific International Holdings, a public company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the owner and operator of an exclusive large-scale integrated gaming resort on the island of Saipan. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Accountant

Job Description:

- Oversees a team of accountants on day to day journal entry, consolidation of financials, financial reporting, local tax filing, cost accounting, landed cost analysis, communication with the headquarter accounting staff in Hong Kong
- Under the supervision of Saipan CFO and HK headquarter controller to integrate casino financial reporting with the financial reporting obligation of a public company listed in Hong Kong
- Draft accounting policy and internal control policy
- Participate in semi-annual and annual audit process
- Lead the ERP implementation from the Saipan side and coordinate with other functional areas in this effort
- Cross functional responsibility with casino operations, hotel operations, construction, F&B, etc.

Qualification:

- Degree in accounting with at least 10 years of accounting experience
- Familiar with US GAAP and willing to learn about Hong Kong GAAP (very similar to IFRS GAAP)
- Big 4 audit experience preferred
- Public company experience, CPA preferred
- Team player and willing to participate in an exciting multi-cultural growth experience
- Be willing to relocate to Saipan

Accountant

Job Description:

- Handling payroll timekeeping and processing.
- Provide financial information to management by researching and analyzing accounting data; preparing reports, including: Preparing asset, liability, and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing account information.
- Documenting financial transactions by entering account information.
- Recommending financial actions by analyzing accounting options.
- Summarizing current financial status by collecting information; preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports.
- Substantiating financial transactions by auditing documents.
- Maintaining accounting controls by preparing and recommending policies and procedures.
- Guiding accounting clerical staff by coordinating activities and answering questions.
- Reconciling financial discrepancies by collecting and analyzing account information.
- Securing financial information by completing data base backups.
- Maintaining financial security by following internal controls.
- Preparing payments by verifying documentation, and requesting disbursements.
- Answering accounting procedure questions by researching and interpreting accounting policy and regulations.
- Complying with federal, state, and local financial legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation, enforcing adherence to requirements, and advising management on needed actions.
- Preparing special financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Maintaining customer confidence and protects operations by keeping financial information confidential.
- Maintaining professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Other related duties.

Qualification:

- Must have experience with payroll software acquisition, implementation, and management.
- Accounting, Corporate Finance, Reporting Skills, Attention to Detail, Deadline-Oriented, Reporting Research Results, Confidentiality, Time Management, Data Entry Management, General Math Skills.
- A bachelor's degree in accounting preferred; equivalent degree may be considered.
- At least two (2) years of related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license is preferred.

Application procedure: Please email your detailed comprehensive resume, including salaries, dates of employers, and dates of any college degree. If you are claiming college degree or CPA, you are also required to attach a copy of those credentials to your resume. All documents must be emailed to hr@bestsunshineint.com. For more information, please go to the CNMI Department of Labor website under vacancies.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems.
- Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary range: \$20,485 - \$24,889.35 depending on experience and qualification.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

PACIFIC TRADING CO., LTD.

P.O. Box 500236, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322-6624 / 5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB TITLE: Administrative Assistant

Administrative Assistant Job Responsibilities:

Provides office services by implementing administrative systems, procedures, and policies, and monitoring administrative projects. Provides Administrative support for various HR functions, as well.

Administrative Assistant Job Duties:

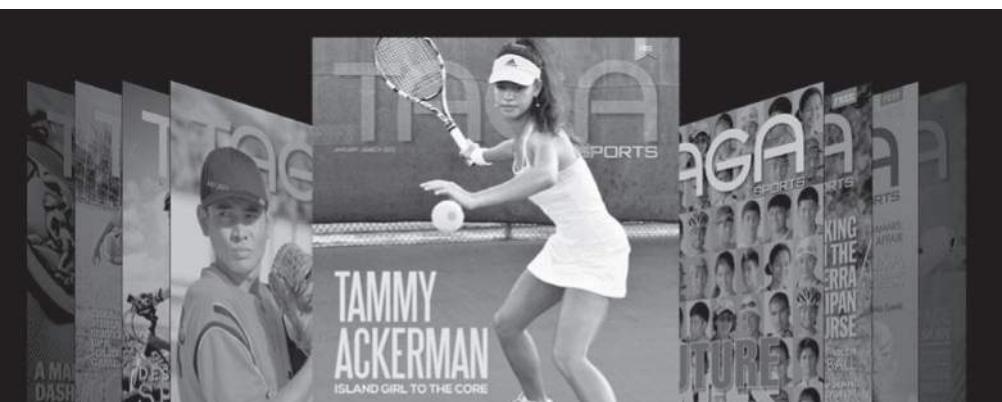
- Maintains workflow by studying methods; implementing cost reductions; and developing reporting procedures.
- Creates and revises systems and procedures by analyzing operating practices, recordkeeping systems, forms control, office layout, and budgetary and personnel requirements; implementing changes.
- Develops administrative staff by providing information, educational opportunities, and experiential growth opportunities.
- Resolves administrative problems by coordinating preparation of reports, analyzing data, and identifying solutions.
- Ensures operation of equipment by completing preventive maintenance requirements; calling for repairs; maintaining equipment inventories; evaluating new equipment and techniques.
- Provides information by answering questions and requests.
- Maintains supplies inventory by checking stock to determine inventory level; anticipating needed supplies; placing and expediting orders for supplies; verifying receipt of supplies.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning administrative projects; expediting work results.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

HR Responsibilities:

- Responsible for drafting correspondence for the GM with regards to employee disciplinary action or as assigned.
- Monitor administrative responsibilities and tasks among office staff.
- Coordinate and Supervise office staff activities to ensure maximum efficiency
- Coordinate the recruitment and selection of office staff
- Responsible for maintaining employees file
- Maintain security and confidentiality of data
- Develop and implement office policies and procedures
- Handle customer inquiries and complaints
- Responsible for processing timesheet for payroll.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Administrative Assistant Skills and Qualifications:

Reporting Skills, Administrative Writing Skills, Microsoft Office Skills, Managing Processes, Organization, Analyzing Information, Professionalism, Problem Solving, Supply Management, Inventory Control, Verbal Communication



TAGA Sports is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA Sports, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA Sports. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Warriors cruise past Hawks 114-95 for best record in NBA



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors whipped perfect passes through the lane that led to pretty shots and plenty of high-flying dunks.

Once unselfish Golden State got it going on both ends, the Hawks had a hard time keeping up in a matchup of the NBA's top two teams.

Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, Andre Iguodala added 21 points and six assists, and the Warriors cruised past Atlanta 114-95 on Wednesday night to maintain the league's best record.

"We obviously wanted to beat them tonight because they gave us a whooping in Atlanta," Stephen Curry said. "It was a fun night."

Curry had 16 points and 12 assists, Draymond Green contributed 18 points and Andrew Bogut grabbed 14 rebounds as balanced Golden State maintained the best record in the league (54-13) with its 10th straight win at home.

The Hawks, looking fatigued and trailing big by the fourth quarter, were denied again in a chance to clinch their first division title since the 1993-94 season as Washington won at Utah.

Paul Millsap and DeMarre Carroll each scored 16 points and Carroll had 12 boards for cold-shooting Atlanta (53-15), which had won 10 of 12 and three in a row but shot 35.6 percent from the floor.

The game had a playoff-like atmosphere and was billed by some as a potential NBA Finals matchup, but Warriors coach Steve Kerr won't go there. It's way too soon.

The Warriors certainly look ready for a long postseason run, showing off snazzy passing while winning their third straight and 10th in 12 games, in front of a rocking sellout crowd of 19,596 at Oracle Arena.

"What I take away from it is the number of players who made an impact," Kerr said.

Two days after Golden State clinched a playoff berth for the third consecutive season, the Warriors scored 44 baskets on 39 assists. It was the 25th time this season Golden State had 30 or more assists.

Both teams played short-handed. The Warriors were without All-Star guard Klay Thompson, who sprained his right ankle Monday against the Lakers and will be re-evaluated in seven to 10 days.

Justin Holiday started in Thompson's place, something Kerr said Holiday earned after a career-best, 23-point performance at Denver last Friday night.

Hawks star Kyle Korver is likely out at least another game after breaking his nose in a win against the Lakers on Sunday. Ex-Warrior Kent Bazemore moved into Atlanta's starting lineup.

The Hawks beat the Warriors 124-116 at home on Feb. 6, knocking down 15 3-pointers

and forcing key turnovers late. Atlanta was held to eight 3s on Wednesday.

"Any time you're playing teams with the better records in the league, you're going to be tested, you're going to be challenged," Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "And you kind of want to rise to that. You want to meet that test. Tonight wasn't our best showing."

Golden State had five turnovers—four in five possessions—by the 7:57 mark of the first quarter, including three steals by Jeff Teague as the Hawks turned those mistakes into seven early points despite starting 6 for 17.

But the Warriors warmed up in a hurry.

Cavaliers 117, Nets 92

In Cleveland, J.R. Smith and Timofey Mozgov scored 17 points apiece, Kyrie Irving had 10 assists and Cleveland shook off a slow start to beat Brooklyn for its 14th straight win at home.

LeBron James added 16 points for the Cavs, who had seven players score in double figures. Cleveland trailed by 13 in the first quarter before going on a 30-8 run and didn't look back.

Kevin Love returned after a two-game break to rest his back and finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Deron Williams scored 20 to lead the Nets, who are running out of games as they claw to get into the playoffs.

Heat 108,

Trail Blazers 104

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 15 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, including a jumper with 13.6 seconds left to break a tie and help Miami beat Portland.

Wade made 13 of 26 shots for the Heat, who were down 11 shortly after halftime. Luol Deng had 24 points on 4-for-4 shooting from 3-point range for Miami, which got 20 points and 11 assists from Goran Dragic and a 12-point, 10-rebound night from Hassan Whiteside.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 34 points and 12 rebounds. Damian Lillard scored 17 for the Trail Blazers, who fell a half-game behind Houston in the race for third in the Western Conference.

Thunder 122, Celtics 118

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 36 points to help Oklahoma City snap Boston's five-game winning streak.

Westbrook, the NBA's leading scorer, also had 10 assists, five rebounds and five steals.

Enes Kanter had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Anthony Morrow added 20 points for Oklahoma City, which moved a half-game ahead of New Orleans in the race for the final Western Conference playoff spot.

Marcus Smart, who played college ball at Oklahoma State, led Boston with a career-high 25 points. Kelly Olynyk and



Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green (23) celebrates after a making a 3-point basket against the Atlanta Hawks during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 18, 2015, in Oakland, Calif. AP

Brandon Bass each added 20 points for the Celtics.

Boston shot 64 percent in the first half, the highest percentage the Thunder have allowed in a half this season. Oklahoma City held the Celtics to 42 percent shooting after the break.

Raptors 105, Timberwolves 100

In Toronto, Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 15 rebounds, DeMar DeRozan scored 21 and Toronto won its 11th straight home game over short-handed Minnesota.

Terrence Ross added 15 points as the Raptors won for the third time in five games. They spoiled the Toronto debut of 2014 top draft pick Andrew Wiggins, who grew up in the city's north suburbs.

The Raptors have won seven straight meetings with Minnesota and haven't lost at home to the Timberwolves since dropping a 108-97 decision on Jan. 21, 2004.

Toronto guard Kyle Lowry left with just under five minutes to go in the third quarter after injuring his back on a hard fall. He did not return.

Kevin Martin led the Timberwolves with 37 points. Ham-

pered by foul trouble in the first half, Wiggins wasn't much of a factor in becoming the 15th Canadian player to face the Raptors. He finished with 15 points.

Spurs 114, Bucks 103

In Milwaukee, Danny Green scored 20 points and Tim Duncan added 19 points and seven assists as San Antonio beat Milwaukee.

San Antonio bounced back after an embarrassing overtime loss to the New York Knicks on Tuesday night. After the game, Spurs coach Greg Popovich called it "a pathetic performance."

The Spurs were much better Wednesday, as Boris Diaw had 18 points and Tony Parker scored 15. San Antonio has won eight of 10.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 19 points.

Bulls 103, Pacers 86

In Chicago, rookie forward Nikola Mirotic scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half, Mike Dunleavy added 21 points and Pau Gasol had 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead short-handed Chicago over Indiana.

Mirotic, who played 31 minutes off the bench, entered averaging 20.3 points in nine games

in March. His previous best scoring month was the 9.9 points he averaged in December.

The Bulls (41-28) snapped a two-game skid despite playing without injured starters Derrick Rose and Jimmy Butler and key reserve Taj Gibson.

Solomon Hill had 13 points to lead six players in double figures for Indiana.

Mavericks 107, Magic 102

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points and Dallas withstood a fourth-quarter meltdown, beating lowly Orlando for its third straight win since an embarrassing home loss to Cleveland.

The Mavericks lost most of a 22-point lead in the second half, letting Orlando get within one in the final minute before finishing off their only opponent with a losing record over eight games.

The challenging stretch started with a 33-point loss to LeBron James' Cavaliers and ends with consecutive games against defending champion San Antonio.

Elfrid Payton had a triple-double with 15 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, but missed an open jumper that could have put the Magic ahead with 30 sec-

onds left after they trailed 70-48 early in the third quarter.

Monta Ellis had 21 points for the Mavericks, who beat Orlando for the seventh straight time.

Victor Oladipo led the Magic with 19 in their sixth consecutive loss.

Clippers 116, Kings 105

In Sacramento, Calif., Chris Paul had 30 points and 11 assists as Los Angeles defeated slumping Sacramento.

The Clippers hit eight 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to pull away from the Kings and win their second straight and fourth in six games. The victory kept the Clippers tied for fifth place in the Western Conference with Dallas.

J.J. Redick connected on seven 3-pointers and scored 27 points for the Clippers. Blake Griffin had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Hedo Turkoglu also had 19 points. Los Angeles made 17 of 37 3-point attempts.

Rudy Gay scored 23 points for the Kings, who have dropped four straight and eight of nine. Sacramento played without leading scorer and rebounder DeMarcus Cousins (right calf strain). The Kings are 2-13 when Cousins is sidelined.

Wizards 88, Jazz 84

In Salt Lake City, John Wall scored 24 points and Washington extended its winning streak to five games with a victory over Utah.

Wall added six assists and nine rebounds, while Paul Pierce finished with 18 points, including four 3-pointers, to help the Wizards end Utah's six-game winning streak.

Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 26 points, four assists and four rebounds. Derrick Favors added 16 points and nine rebounds, while Rudy Gobert had nine points, 14 rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

The Wizards had to shoot 52.4 percent from the field to overcome 22 turnovers.

76ers 94, Pistons 83

In Philadelphia, Ish Smith scored 15 points to pace a balanced offense, and Philadelphia snapped a four-game skid with a victory over Detroit.

Jason Richardson added 14 points for Philadelphia, which won for the second time in 10 games. The 76ers continued to have success against the Pistons, winning three of four meetings this season.

Sixers rookie big man Nerlens Noel left in the third quarter with a bruised right foot and didn't return. Noel, who sat out last season with a left knee injury, finished with 11 points and four rebounds.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 20 points for the Pistons, who have lost 11 of 12. Reggie Jackson, who set a career-high with 20 assists on Tuesday, had a triple-double with 11 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Dayton rallies for 56-55 win over Boise State on home court



DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—12,592 - the largest for a First Four game—Dayton closed with a 10-2 run.

“It’s a great feeling to be in the tournament still,” Sibert said.

Derrick Marks’ leaning 3-pointer at the buzzer was far off the mark, finishing it off. Marks had 23 points on 10-of-21 shooting.

The Broncos had already snapped San Diego State’s 29-game home-court streak this season, and came up just short of another big road win. The Broncos missed seven of their last eight shots.

“They hit a few shots down the stretch that were back-breakers,” Boise State coach Leon Rice said.

Sibert’s two free throws tied it at 53-53 with 1:02 left, and his long 3-pointer gave the Flyers a 56-55 lead with 34 seconds to go.

After Montigo Alford missed a driving bank shot, Pollard got the rebound, was fouled and missed both free throws with 14 seconds left, giving the Broncos a final shot. Marks leaned into Kyle Davis to draw contact on the final attempt, which missed everything.

“I made a move and I missed the shot,” he said. “The ref didn’t call it.”

Marks, the Mountain West Player of the Year, was coming off one of his worst shooting games during a 71-66 overtime loss to Wyoming in the conference tournament. He kept the

Flyers went 16-0 at home during the regular season and have won 22 straight at UD Arena, seventh-longest active streak in Division I.

They needed a big finish to keep it going.

The Flyers trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half and by seven with 3:43 to go. Encouraged by the crowd of

as 12,592 - the largest for a First Four game—Dayton closed with a 10-2 run.



Dayton's Kendall Pollard celebrates after a 56-55 win over Boise State in a first round NCAA tournament basketball game Wednesday, March 18, 2015, in Dayton, Ohio. AP

Broncos ahead most of the way.

Marks had a 3-pointer and a pair of driving layups during a 14-0 run that put Boise State ahead 29-17 late in the first half. With Sibert on the bench with three fouls, the Flyers couldn’t generate points.

The senior guard returned for the second half, and Dayton made seven of its first eight shots to take the lead. Scoochie Smith’s back-to-back 3s put the Flyers up 37-34.

The Broncos responded with a 13-1 run led by Marks. Also, Sibert picked up his fourth foul during the spurt, allowing Boise State to stay ahead until the end.

Robert Morris 81, N. Florida 77

In Dayton, Ohio, even down by six points at half and by 13 early in the second half, Robert Morris never forgot that the NCAA Tournament was supposed to be fun.

Lucky Jones scored 21 points, including a key free throw, Rodney Pryor had 20 and Marquise Reed 19 to lead the Colonials to an 81-77 victory over North Florida on Wednesday night in the First Four.

“We made sure coming into halftime that we remembered this is a blessing to be out here, to enjoy the moment,” Pryor said with a wide grin. “Guys had their

heads down and things like that, but we reiterated going out and having fun and enjoying it.”

Part of the reason they had so much fun was a second half without a turnover, plus completely stifling the high-scoring, perimeter-minded Ospreys down the stretch.

“At halftime we let (the players) be for about 5 or 6 minutes, and I think they figured it out,” said coach Andy Toole, avoiding a fire-and-brimstone speech. “As we came in as coaches in the locker room, you know they looked like they understood what they needed to do.”

The Colonials (20-14), who

won the Northeast Conference Tournament to get into the field as a 16 seed, now meet top-seeded Duke in the second round on Friday in Charlotte.

They failed to score for 4:31 of the first half, putting themselves in a hole. Down by 13 early in the second half after a pair of Beau Beech 3s, they turned the tables by shutting out North Florida for 4:44 to get back in the game.

“We were in a drought, which is unlike us,” said coach Matthew Driscoll. “Giving up 52 points in a half is unlike us, not close to what we’ve been doing. You’ve got to give Robert Morris a ton of credit.”

With the teams tied, Reed—a freshman—drove the lane and spun in a left-handed layup and was fouled with 3:49 left. He missed the free throw, but Jones was there to tip in the miss for a 70-66 lead.

Pryor then added a 15-foot jumper and Kavon Stewart hit a free throw to push the lead to seven with 2 minutes left.

The Ospreys got within 78-76 with 10 seconds left, but Stewart made two more foul shots. With the lead at three and less than a second left, Jones—the Colonials’ third-leading scorer who comes off the bench—made a free throw to clinch it.

Beech finished with 28 points for the Ospreys (23-12), champs of the Atlantic Sun Tournament who were making their first trip to the NCAA Tournament.



Fusion
WHERE STYLE MEETS VALUE

www.shopdialrto.com



Free 3 months discounted off of the term of qualified rental agreements. Example: 12 months rental is now only 9 months. See store for details.

NO CREDIT CHECKS

Saipan Middle Road 234-RENT
Saipan Chalan Kanoa 234-DIAL

DIAL

Rent-to-Own

Delegates' accommodation, food being finalized

The Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior and Big League regional tournament organizing committee has narrowed down its hotel choices that will be temporary house the delegates during the event that Saipan will be hosting this July.

Another option for the committee is to use Marianas High School as an athletes' village since it would be more convenient to all teams because it is near the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Tournament director and former CNMI Little League

district administrator James Ada said they are looking at all possible options that would be more convenient to all participating teams during their week-long stay on Saipan.

He has also instructed accommodation and hosting committee head Annie Flores and organizing committee secretary-treasurer Lynn Duenas to look at the best hotel and at the same time coordinate with the Public School System on the cost of using MHS.

At least 17 teams, spread out in the three divisions, are expected to compete in the regional tournament, which offers one

spot each to the Little League World Series held in various states in the mainland.

Teams would start arriving on June 25 and they are set to leave on July 6. The committee said that they are ready to accommodate any team or delegation that wish to come to Saipan at an earlier date.

The organizing committee is set to reserve five rooms per team or a total of 85 hotel rooms for 17 teams. Another 15 rooms will be given to the CNMI delegation. They are still waiting for the final number of participating teams.

The organizing committee is looking at all of their hotel op-

tions since most of the big hotels like the Saipan World Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa are fully booked during the time of the tournament.

Flores and Duenas are also

SBA March roll-offs

The Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament for March will be held this Saturday and on Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The first and second day roll-offs will both start at 6pm. The tournament is exclusive for SBA members. All bowlers must pay the SBA annual membership fee of \$15 before participating in their first monthly roll-off.

Bowlers have the option to bowl on Saturday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the \$15 entry fee is paid. Only the higher score will qualify for prizes. The number of bowlers will be limited to the first 48 entries for each day. Cash prizes will depend on the number of entries. Women will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

For early registration and payment, please see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288 5627 or via email at zapanta@pticom.com. (SBA)

the last squad to clinch the age group crown after beating MDX in the 2012 finals, 74-69.

Meanwhile, this weekend's opening games will be determined via raffle draws and the succeeding matches will be played every Wednesday and Saturday as the gym is still hosting games from another league on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Pepe Crisostomo at 483-1997, Edward Manalili at 483-4337, Marlon Regaton at 989-9836 or Pete Reyes at 9897-317 or send email to ufo.saipan@gmail.com. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

ture her training.

"I raced in XTERRA Philippines in February and felt not good there. I was suffering from knee injury then so the older I get, the smarter I have to train and look after my knees and bones," added Bucher, who would like to thank Pacific Islands Club for her accommodation in the duration of the Saipan Sportsfest.

Bucher and Hadden tried to have a practice swim in the waters off PIC yesterday morning, but intermittent rains prevented them from doing so. The duo also scheduled a ride along the bike route early afternoon to give Hadden the feel of the course.

"From what I heard, this is a challenging course because of the heat and humidity. I'll see what I can do and try to adapt to the course condition," said Hadden, who is returning to Half Ironman after almost two years of absence.

"I did Half Ironman races from 2006 to 2012 and then stopped to pursue my study. Last year, I joined XTERRA for a new challenge and this time I will try to do the 70.3 race again. Hopefully, I will finish between 4:30:00 to 4:45:00.

Anything below 4:30:00 will be an awesome result given this tough course condition," said Hadden, who pride herself for being a fast runner.

Meanwhile, Carey is used to the course condition here, having raced in Tagaman for several years. However, she has to pace herself well this year to avoid falling short again. Last year, she had a close race with Wasle, but cramped up at the halfway mark of the 21K run leg to slide to third place behind Filipino pro Monica Torres.

"I want to redeem myself. I have been doing long running workout for this race and I joined a half marathon event last month. I don't know if I will win, but I would definitely love to win at my 'hometown' (Saipan). I would like to go sub 5 (hours)," the now Guam-based pro said.

her very best to balance her time between sports and school.

"The biggest challenge for me was balancing out all of my activities. As an AP student, I had trouble making time for homework, various sports practices, and sleep. There wasn't really any secret method to getting through it. I just tried to do everything that I needed to do in order to reach my goals," she said.

Race also credited her dad, CNMI Hall of Famer Jeff Race, for having a long list of achievements in sports.

"From a very early age, he nudged me toward sports, which has now led me to where I am today," the younger Race said.

After her outstanding 2014 season, Race aims to continue reaping awards for the teams she plays for before leaving the island for college next year.

"I hope to continue playing soccer competitively while doing basketball and athletics for fun. I want to become a better soccer player and better athlete overall. I also want my teams to succeed together and keep

helping each other get better because your team becomes like a little family," said Race, who hopes to have another wish granted next year as she shoots for a soccer scholarship in college.

She also has some advice to fellow student-athletes.

"Just do your best. People often notice when an athlete works hard and good results usually follow hard work. Also, when you try your best, you can be proud of yourself even if people don't recognize the work you have done."

plate, in the top of the third and to Tom Guerrero in the eighth.

Still in the top of the eighth, Falcons catcher Goro Iskawa made a timely throw to third baseman Ton Benavente, who tagged Guerrero out as the latter moved too far away from third while attempting to steal home.

Lieto, with two outs and no runners on base, then struck out Quinson Blas to end the eighth.

Palacios, on the other hand, was tagged with two earned runs on seven hits while fanning 15 and walking two. He allowed a two-RBI single to A.J. Lizama, 2-for-4, and ripped a

triple in the sixth, in the bottom of the third.

Iskawa, who singled in the bottom of the seventh, scored on a Palacios wild pitch for the Falcons' other run in a 2-for-4 batting, while Lamarc Iguel had a double and scored one run despite a 1-for-4 appearance at the plate.

for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They would be given to all delegates at the hotel or either before or after their matches at the baseball field. The committee is still waiting for some more caterers to submit their quotations. (Jon Perez)

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	27	.603	—
Boston	30	37	.448	10%
Brooklyn	27	39	.409	13
Philadelphia	16	52	.235	25
New York	14	53	.209	26%

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	47	21	.691	—
Houston	45	22	.672	1%
Dallas	44	25	.638	3%
San Antonio	42	25	.627	4%
New Orleans	37	30	.552	9%

Northwest Division

Portland	44	22	.667	—
Oklahoma City	38	30	.559	7
Utah	30	37	.448	14%
Denver	26	42	.382	19
Minnesota	14	53	.209	30%

x-clinched playoff spot

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	54	13	.806	—
L.A. Clippers	44	25	.638	11
Phoenix	35	33	.515	19%
Sacramento	22	45	.328	32
L.A. Lakers	17	49	.258	36%

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Westbrook, OKC	52	480	411	1429	27.5
Harden, HOU	66	521	558	1765	26.7
James, CLE	58	536	333	1507	26.0
Davis, NOR	55	526	300	1353	24.6
Cousins, SAC	52	426	377	1231	23.7
Curry, GOL	64	518	253	1505	23.5
Aldridge, POR	58	533	257	1351	23.3
Griffin, LAC	53	460	251	1179	22.2
Irving, CLE	64	502	278	1418	22.2
Thompson, GOL	64	506	193	1404	21.9
Wade, MIA	48	398	221	1038	21.6
Lillard, POR	65	470	284	1383	21.3
Gay, SAC	60	446	279	1240	20.7
Butler, CHI	55	361	329	1110	20.2
Hayward, UTA	65	426	312	1271	19.6
Vucevic, ORL	61	520	144	1186	19.4
Ellis, DAL	68	515	197	1304	19.2
Paul, LAC	68	462	221	1253	18.4
Gasol, CHI	64	466	237	1178	18.4
Lowry, TOR	64	405	234	1166	18.2

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	Avg
Jordan, LAC	308	432	.713	68	322	677	999	14.7
Plumlee, BRO	248	429	.578	67	354	536	890	13.3
A. Johnson, TOR	259	451	.574	52	156	483	639	12.3
Valanciunas, TOR	298	523	.570	64	186	583	769	12.0
Gortat, WAS	356	635	.561	62	248	463	711	11.5
Mozgov, CLE	257	47						

MP United halts Tan Holdings run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MP United Football Club snapped Tan Holdings' winning streak after cruising to a 4-0 victory in one of the only two matches played last week in the M-League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

John Joyner and Joe Miller scored two goals apiece in MP United's shutout of Tan Holdings, which ended its five-game winning run. Despite the loss, Tan Holdings remains at the top of Division 1 with its 5-0-1 win-draw-loss record, while MP United improved to a 3-1-1 slate to keep the No. 3 ranking in its group, just one victory behind the second-running Wild Bill's (4-0-2). Paire (2-0-3), Inter Godfather's (1-1-3), and Korean Football Association (0-0-5) complete the standings, which did not have much changes as last Sunday's matches were called off due to Tropical Storm Bavi.

In the other game last week, Sun Palace edged Kanoa Resort, 2-1.

Sun Palace notched only its second win in five games, while handing Kanoa its second defeat also in five matches in Division 2.

Jun Sik Kim canned the pair of goals for Sun Palace, as he hit the board in the 21st and 25th minute. Kanoa scored the first goal in the match off Davy Laxa's shot in the 10th minute.

Kanoa returned to the pitch last Wednesday and regrouped quickly following a 1-0 triumph over the Thundercats.

M-LEAGUE FIXTURES



MEN'S DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Tan Holdings	6	5	0	1	15	19	10	9
2	Wild Bill's	6	4	0	2	12	19	15	4
3	MP United	5	3	1	1	10	16	8	8
4	Paire	5	2	0	3	6	5	9	-4
5	Inter Godfather's	5	1	1	3	4	11	12	-1
6	KFAS	5	0	0	5	0	1	17	-16

MEN'S DIVISION 2

1	Matansa	6	4	1	1	13	15	9	6
2	Sun Palace	5	2	3	0	9	9	7	2
3	Shirley's	5	2	2	1	8	12	10	2
4	Kanoa	5	2	1	2	7	15	12	3
5	World Resort	5	1	3	1	6	11	10	1
6	Thundercats	5	1	2	2	5	12	10	2
7	WNT	5	0	0	5	0	9	25	-16

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1	Shirley's FC	6	6	0	0	18	26	2	24
2	Tan Holdings FC	6	3	2	1	11	17	12	5
3	Kanoa FC	6	3	1	2	10	18	14	4
4	MPU	6	3	1	2	10	13	16	-3
5	Matansa FC	5	1	0	4	3	8	14	-6
6	IFC	5	1	0	4	3	5	16	-11
7	Paire FC	4	0	0	4	0	4	17	-13

UPCOMING GAMES

March 21 (Women's)
4pm IFC vs Matansa
6pm MPU vs Tan Holdings
8pm Paire vs Shirley's
March 24
7:15pm Kanoa vs IFC
March 22 (Men's)
2pm KFAS vs Inter

4pm Paire vs Tan Holdings
6pm World Resort vs Thundercats
8pm Kanoa vs Shirley's
March 25
7pm Matansa vs Sun Palace
March 26
7pm Shirley's vs World Resort



Jae Kwang Oh registered the only goal in the match, as he found the back of the net in the second half.

DOVE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Shirley's 9, Tan Holdings 1

In the women's division, Shirley remained unbeaten in six games following a demolition of Tan Holdings last Saturday.

Mia Carreon led Shirley's rout of Tan Holdings with her five goals. Angie Ito, Diane Pablo, Diana Maniacop, and De Jana Muna chipped in one goal apiece. Chloe Salvosa was the lone Tan Holdings player to light up the board.

Tennis, golf, outrigger canoe next in MISO calendar

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tennis, golf, and outrigger canoe are the next sports lined up in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization calendar

with the former opening tomorrow at 8am at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

This will be MISO's first time to offer tennis in the middle and high school divisions with executive director Nick Gross plan-

ning to add some more sports to give the students a wide variety of physical activities.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation president Jeff Race will be the tournament coordinator for the one-day event.

"The tennis tournament is being used as a stakeholders event to encourage all schools (middle and high school) to participate and get together as MISO intends to roll out a season of tennis next school year (2015-2016)," said Gross.

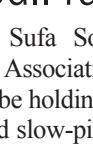
Golf and outrigger canoe is set for next month with the former opening on April 16 at 4pm at the Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort.

Gross said that they are expecting 20 to 30 participants from three to four schools that will join the co-ed high school golf tournament, which will run for four straight Thursdays. Games will be played on April 16, 23, 30, and May 7.

The awards ceremony would



Colin Ramsey serves a ball during their game in last month's Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, which will host tomorrow's MISO tournament.



The Sufa Softball Association will be holding a co-ed slow-pitch fundraising tournament set on March 28 and 29 at the Capital Hill ballfield.

Tournament organizers are expecting at least 10 to 12 teams, but the number can surpass that as long as they can accommodate it on the game schedule.

The co-ed tournament requires each team to have two

Sufa softball fundraiser next week

female players on the field every time they are on the defensive side.

It is an annual fundraising event where proceeds will help a CNMI team to join this year's Labor Day weekend softball tournament to be held in Seattle, Washington.

Registration fee is \$100 and great prizes await the Top 3 teams as well as the players.

For more information, call Joe Flores at 4837848 or Tom Camacho at 2858663. (Jon Perez)

Kanoa 4, MP United 2

In the other game last Saturday, Irish Pagarao completed a hat-trick to power Kanoa past MP United.

Pagarao drilled her three goals in succession, scoring in the 13th, 22nd, and 24th minute, while Marrielle Gariguez capped off Kanoa's offense with her conversion in the 38th.

Michaelle Kautz and Michelle Ann Masga gave MP United its two goals.

MP United 3, IFC 2

MP United was back on track last Tuesday as it outlasted Independents FC.

Masga earned the go-ahead goal for MP United with her shot in the second half. Jayda Mendoza and Karleen Reyes scored the two other goals for MP United, which improved to a 3-1-2 record to tie Kanoa's mark.

Sarah Allen and Ferleen Esmundo had one goal apiece for IFC.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Kanoa FC player chases the ball during their Division 2 game against the Thundercats in the M-League last Wednesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Warriors cruise past Hawks 114-95 for best record in NBA

PAGE 28



Saipan Tribune Sports



MP United halts Tan Holdings run

PAGE 31

32 FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wide-open race in women's division



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With two former champions out and two returning pros setting modest goals, it will be a wide-open race in the women's pro division of this Sunday's Tagaman Triathlon.

Last year's champion Carina Wasle of Austria and 2013 winner Jacqui Slack of United Kingdom are missing this year's road race, leaving Switzerland's Renata Bucher and former Saipan resident Mieko Carey to contest the women's pro crown against United Kingdom's Daz Parker and Tagaman first-timer Belinda Hadden of Australia.

Wasle, who completed last year's Half Ironman course (1.9K swim, 90K bike, and 21K run) in 4:45:24 to rule the women's division, will not be able to defend her title this weekend due to time constraints.

"I would love to defend my Tagaman title, but this year I can't make it as I only arrived

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Renata Bucher, left, and Belinda Hadden pose for a photo before a scheduled practice swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club yesterday morning.



on Saipan from Austria on Saturday morning. Tagaman is a very hard race and racing it with jetlag and with only five days recovery before the XTERRA race even makes it harder," Wasle said.

Slack, on the other hand, had to stay in Australia this weekend to participate in a 100K MTB race for which she is an ambassador.

Bucher, Parker, and Hadden arrived on Saipan early this week, while Carey is scheduled to return here today. The two pros—Carey and Bucher—admitted winning the Half Ironman event will be tough despite the absence of two former champions, while Hadden is wary of her unfamiliarity with the course and its condition.

"I love to race Tagaman, but I do not go for the win. I will do

See WIDE on Page 30

Lieto wins pitching duel in Falcons win

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Peter Lieto won his pitching duel with Joe Palacios as the Falcons hung on to a 3-1 win over the IP&E Fielders in Wednesday night's game in the

2015 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win was the seventh in nine games for the 2007 champion Falcons, who will close out their season against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees on March 25.

A win against the third-run-

ning Yankees, who holds a 6-3 mark, and a Brewers loss in one of their last two matches, would secure the Falcons the pennant.

The Brewers currently hold a 6-2 slate and close out the elimination round against lowly teams North Starz tonight and the Jets on Monday. Two wins by the Brewers coupled by a



Falcons victory next Wednesday would force a one-game playoff for the pennant.

The Fielders, however, dropped their fourth straight game to end their elimination round campaign with a 4-6 card.

Both Lieto and Palacios tossed complete games combining for 26 strikeouts, the most in a single game this season. The former also holds the most strikeouts in a single game this season with 18 in the Falcons' 10-4 triumph against the Jets on Jan. 16.

Lieto, the league's second best hurler this season, fanned 11 with four walks and pitched seven shutout innings before allowing Cody Kaipat, who had a leadoff walk, to score the Field-

See LIETO on Page 30

Fielders manager Pat Tenorio, left, looks on as Falcons third baseman Tom Benavente, right, tags out Tom Guerrero in the bottom of the eighth in their game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League on Wednesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Wish granted for Race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Winning the 2014 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Year last month was a wish come true for Gabrielle Race.

"When I was 9, I was one vote away from winning the 2007 Female Student Athlete of the Year against Jacqueline Wonenberg who is quite a bit older than me. Since then, I have always wanted to win the award. It's something I've always secretly hoped that I would receive," said Race, who got the award last month during the NMSA Annual Banquet at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

Though her wish was granted, it was not handed to her on a silver platter. She had to earn the coveted award by excelling in not only one but multiple sports.

The Marianas High School junior suited up for the CNMI Women's National Team that won its first East Asian Football Federation-sanctioned



game against Macau in a qualifying tournament in Guam last year. Race scored in the team's 7-0 rout of the former Portuguese colony and earlier played for a select squad that stunned Hong Kong's U19 national crew in an invitational off-island tournament.

On island, Race also played for the MHS Lady Dolphins, who ruled the MISO league with an unbeaten record. In the NMIFA league, Race and her Shirley's Football Club topped the fall season of last year's competition.

Despite having her hands full playing soccer, Race still managed to compete in several other sports. In athletics, she helped the Lady Dolphins take the high school division championship in the McDonald's/PSS All Schools Championships, handing MHS gold medals in the 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m runs, 4x100m and 4x400m relay, and javelin, and bronze in long jump.

See WISH on Page 30



Gabrielle Race is all smiles after receiving the 2014 TSL Foundation/NMSA Female Student Athlete of the Year award and a life-sized cutout of her photo during last month's NMSA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.